ABOVE: ...and the bands played on. (See page 10 for details).

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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STABBING FOLLOWED ROW AFTER DRINKING SESSION

Teenager who killed boyfriend is sentenced

A TEENAGER was put behind bars for five years last week for killing her boyfriend after a drinking spree on the day of her A-level results.

Katherine McGrath (19) plunged a steak knife into Alyn Thomas's chest after drinking with her schoolfriends celebrating their exams, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

She was cleared of murder, after claiming she acted in self-defence when Alyn (22), bit her thumb in a drunken row, but she was found guilty of the manslaughter of her supermarket worker boyfriend.

Katherine and Alyn downed Malibu, cider, lager and whisky in a day-long drinking session in bars.

She told police she grabbed the knife from the kitchen drawer to "scare him off" during a drunken row back at her large luxury home.

McGrath, who refused to give evidence in her trial, was sentenced to five years in a young offenders' institution.

Judge John Griffith Williams said: "This is a very sad case and only you know exactly what happened, but I'm sure the jury did not hear the whole truth.

"Clearly you rowed. Whatever the cause of the row, he was not the only one to act aggressively. Your decision to arm yourself with it and use it was an over-reaction."

Cardiff Crown Court heard she stabbed Alyn at her £400,000 detached house in Brackla, Bridgend.

The judge said: "You took the life of a young man and deprived his parents, family and friends of their part in his life and the chance to share in his future."

Prosecutor Roger Thomas QC said: "The wound penetrated Alyn Thomas's heart and he died shortly afterwards. There was no justification or excuse for Katherine McGrath taking hold of what was in effect a weapon – the steak knife – and using it to cause his death."

The court heard McGrath was "distressed and emotional" during a 999 call in which she admitted stabbing her boyfriend.

She claimed she acted in self-defence after her boyfriend attacked her and bit her thumb. She told officers: "My boyfriend pushed me to the floor twice. He's got two convictions for assault. He started biting me and I didn't know what to do. I just wanted him to get away from me. I love him."

Alyn and McGrath went to Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend, on the morning of August 20 last year to collect her A-level results.

She had failed to achieve the necessary grades to get on her chosen university course – but had enough to go on a college course in Bristol.

The pair spent much of the day drinking, before Alyn went to work at a Tesco supermarket in Maesteg. They met up again later and together drank Malibu, cider, lager and whisky before meeting friends at bars in Bridgend town centre.

Mr Thomas said: "They were in one pub where Alyn met Tesco colleague, Carys Stanton, who had accidentally bumped Alyn's car previously. She was embarrassed, even though Alyn Thomas laughed it off and made very little of the incident.

"She apologised for bumping his car and offered to buy Alyn some drinks.

"Katherine McGrath will later refer to this and will describe how it was the start of the incident. McGrath claimed that when Alyn attacked her, he was aggressive and angry – shouting the name Carys."

Alyn's father Stephen told the court: "It is a parent's worst fear, receiving a phone call in the early hours of the morning that your child has been admitted to hospital – but then to be told he has been stabbed, turns it into a living nightmare.

"I shall never forget walking into the relatives' room at the Princess of Wales Hospital and having my wife, Lynne, greet me by screaming: 'He's dead!' and then breaking down in floods of tears."

He went on: "I couldn't imagine the pain I had to experience, having to choose flowers and hymns for his funeral service, and having to choose clothes to dress him – rather than having the honour of taking him shopping for a suit for his wedding.

"We will never know what it feels like to see him smile or hold his child.

"He would have made a brilliant father, with his love and his infectious lust for life."

LEFT: St David's Day was celebrated in schools around the borough, and these girls from Nottage Primary in Porthcawl, in full national costume, were a perfect picture!

PHOTOGRAPH BY MALCOLM NUGENT.
(See pages 6-7)

MAESTEG AWAITS THE UNVEILING OF PLANS FOR ITS TOWN CENTRE

LONG-AWAITED details about the regeneration of Maesteg Market and bus station are set to be unveiled next week.

This is phase four of the town's regeneration and two consultation events with local people have been organised.

Details of the proposals will be on display at the indoor market, and also in the old Ferrari's Bakery in Talbot Street from next Monday, March 8.

The shop will be manned by representatives of Bridgend County Borough Council and consultants Powell Dobson Urbanists on Friday, March 12, from 10am to 2pm, and on Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

Residents will be able to make their views known through a questionnaire and comment box.

People can also email project manager Mark Harris at *d.mark.harris@bridgend.gov.uk*.

Previous phases of the regeneration have provoked controversy in Maesteg, with widespread dissatisfaction among residents and traders over work in Commercial Street which has left the town with stained and dirty paving stones that are difficult to clean; unusable parking bays, weathered wooden seats which are prone to vandalism – and trees, which the council has finally admitted are blocking its own CCTV cameras and hampering law enforcement.

The problems of stained paving slabs were repeated in parts of Talbot Street, where similar new slabs were installed, despite the earlier problems in Commercial Street already being highlighted.

This will be the second regeneration that the market and bus station have undeRgone in 20 years.

The earlier one – carried out in 1990 under the Valleys Initiative by Ogwr Borough Council – has been hugely discredited, as it almost destroyed the outdoor market, which never recovered to its previous trading levels after being shut for a year.

The bus station has been the subject of repeated complaints, especially about lack of maintenance, with broken downpipes and paving stones, weeds and pigeon droppings.

Attempts to get the bus station improved have stalled because it was being included in the regeneration strategy, and there was a reluctance to spend any money until the refurbishment takes place.

JAYNE ISAAC

Jobs blow as a Bridgend firm closes its doors

A well-known Bridgend firm has ceased trading after 50 years – with the loss of 48 jobs.

Keith Evans Contract Furnishers of Brackla Industrial Estate, which was set up in 1959, had carried out work on fitting the interiors of numerous pubs and clubs in the area, as well as moving upmarket in recent years to carry out work on the Welsh Assembly, the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Airport.

The firm also worked for leading hotel chains, including the Marriott and Hilton, and catering and pub chains like Wetherspoons, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut.

The company is extremely well-known in the Bridgend area, as is its founder Keith Evans, who, although retired as managing director, still had a hands-on role.

The company was being run by family members and some employee directors.

Mr Evans built up his business based on the quality of its work and he employed top-class craftsmen and women to carry out the contracts.

The company ceased trading on February 12 and went into administration last Monday when staff were made redundant.

Cardiff-based insolvency practitioners Harris Lipman were appointed as administrators and spokesman John Cullen stated that every effort had been made to keep the business going and save the jobs.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Jewellery stolen from flat

POLICE are investigating after burglars stole jewellery from a flat at Heol Llwyn Dyrus, Llangynwyd, on Thursday February 18.

Items stolen included a number of gold charms, one bearing the words 'I Love You'; a gold ladies' watch and a matching gold bracelet; a thick, gold hollow double curb bracelet and five other gold double curb bracelets.

Police Sergeant Paul Hall said: "We would like to hear from anyone who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously in the area between 3pm-4.20pm, or who may have any information about this burglary."

Contact Sergeant Hall at Aberkenfig Police station on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Arrest followed Pontycymer raid

WHEN Blaengarw and Pontycymer policing team searched a house at Green Hill, Pontycymer, it resulted in the arrest of a 46-year-old local man on suspicion of drugs offences.

Under the code-name of Operation Canasta, officers say they had recovered a number of cannabis plants, as well as bags of cannabis.

A man had been released on police bail.

Tory AM steps into row on the hospital waiting times

VALE Conservative candidate Alun Cairns AM is urging residents of the area to contact him if they have experienced delays in getting outpatient appointments at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Mr Cairns has acted following a story in The GEM last week which revealed that a Cowbridge woman was having to wait 18 weeks from the time of her GP referral to actually having her first appointment with a hospital consultant.

"This lady stated quite accurately that if she lived in England, she would have been dealt with much more quickly.

"I am appalled at this delay, because in England no patients at all wait longer than 13 weeks for their first appointment.

"But in Wales, almost 20 per cent of patients are waiting between 10 and 22 weeks, and most of the rest can wait up to ten weeks compared to England, where 58 per cent are dealt with within a month.

"In England, only eight per cent have to wait up to 13 weeks and none wait longer.

"In Wales, we even have some people waiting longer than 22 weeks – although it is a very small number.

"We spend more per head on health in Wales than they do in England, and yet our results in almost every area are worse.

"What is going wrong? We are certainly not getting value for money here compared with over the border."

Mr Cairns said he was keen to know the extent of the problem before he raises it with the ABM Board, which runs the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"It would be good to get a view of how widespread these delays are and I would urge anyone who has experienced undue delay, to get in touch with me on alun@aluncairns.com or ring me on 07971-567317."

Residents are warned about 'bogus' websites

LOCAL residents are being warned to beware of bogus websites when shopping online.

Borough council Trading Standards officers said that reports have been received of consumers purchasing products from seemingly legitimate websites but not receiving the goods. These have included televisions costing £300, as well as brand name straightening products.

Helen Picton, service manager for Trading Standards, commented: "When purchasing from a website, we would strongly recommend that you check the contact details for the business.

"If you cannot find a UK-based address, there is a strong possibility that the website will not originate in this country. Obtaining refunds from traders outside the UK can often be a difficult task.

"These websites often advertise very competitive prices, which lures consumers to make purchases in the belief that they've found a bargain.

" However, if the price sounds too good to be true, it probably is, and by providing your payment details on these websites you may even find yourself the victim of identity fraud and could end up losing much more than the goods you've ordered."

For further information on your consumer rights or if you require advice on a complaint against an online seller, contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

LLYNFI VALLEY PICKS UP THAT ZUMBA BEAT!

THE Llynfi Valley has been swaying to a Latin beat recently, as Zumba classes have taken hold at the council-run Maesteg Sports Centre.

Since starting in January, more than 230 people have attended the class and numbers are set to rise.

Weekly classes have already had to be moved to a larger studio.

One member, said: "I find this class great; me and my friends come every week, have a good workout and a giggle at the same time.

"I've found a new lease of life, the best part of it is that after the class I feel more like I've had a good night out with my friends than having been to an exercise class.

"Exercising is definitely easier when you're enjoying yourself!"

Class Instructor Alison Dugmore is trained in belly dancing but since turning her hand to Zumba, feels like she has found something everybody can take part in, what ever their age or ability. Regular participant Lesley Poulton said: "I attend classes with my 13-year-old daughter and we both absolutely love it,

"I suffer from asthma so haven't really been able to join her before but this is something that everybody can do as there are low and high impact areas – which means each individual can join in at their own pace.

"I can really go for it without pushing myself so much that I need to take my pump, something that Alison has agreed with me on, as she has asthma herself!"

ABOVE:
Regular members of Zumba.

Bridgend choir goes on the road

BRIDGEND Male Choir was among the prize-money winners in the Majestic Choir competition at Torquay's Riviera International Centre.

In a competition where equal marks could be gained for appearance, performance and entertainment value, the choir was surprised to be in competition with both male and female barbershop choirs from around the UK.

Glitzy, sequinned outfits and choreography of a standard suitable for the Las Vegas stage left the traditional male voice choir to rely upon its music content and presentation to challenge in this arena.

An appreciative audience was fully entertained by all eight group participants and the winners, the 'White Rosettes' from Yorkshire, were quite magnificent.

European Champion Chorus 2009, 12 times national champion gold medalists of the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers and Eisteddfod Choir of the World Finalists 2008, the 55 strong ladies ensemble had also been successful with Llangollen's International Eisteddfod barbershop class.

As is traditional with Welsh choirs, the ladies of the White Rosettes joined them for an entertaining afterglow in very different styles, but with beautiful harmonies.

The boys from Bridgend Male Choir then continued their tour with a Sunday visit to St Mary's Church, Lyme Regis for an afternoon concert.

The choir was performing at this magnificent church a few years ago at the launch of its replacement church organ appeal.

Organ accompanist with the Bridgend choir, Scott Williams of Brackla, entertained almost 400 people crammed into the church, drawing great applause.

The choir, under the baton of music director, John Jenkins and piano accompanist, Laura Smith, has become very popular in Lyme Regis. A standing ovation was followed by a further invite to return again.

The Talbot Arms on the town's outskirts, run by a Welsh family, was again the destination for traditional song and refreshment, before the long journey home.

DB

Film will be set in Porthcawl

***OLD Age Pillagers* is a short film that will be on location later this month in Porthcawl.**

The majority of the production team are mature students at the International Film School Wales, with others from University of Glamorgan and UWE.

Director Violet Ryder is "excited" about the project and is looking forward to filming the town.

She has found everyone approached to be "friendly, helpful and accommodating – a great asset when choosing places to set up productions".

Locations manager Anthony Jones, born and bred in Porthcawl, says: "The film industry in Wales is starting to flourish and the year ahead looks very good, with several major productions gearing up to begin filming in south Wales this year."

In the film, pensioners Arthur and Bernard embark on a crime spree of a lifetime to add excitement into their otherwise sedate lives.

Kenfig nomination is well-deserved

I REFER to the news (in The GEM) that Kenfig Hill Post Office has been nominated for the 'Small Shop of the Year Award'.

I wish Mr Williams the very best of luck; he is obviously deserving of the accolade.

Am I the only one who thinks it ironic that he was photographed with Mrs Moon, MP, who voted in favour of the Post Office closure programme?

Helen Baker, Ewenny
(Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bridgend)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	08.47	10.2	21.07	9.8
05 Fri	09.18	9.6	21.37	9.3
06 Sat	09.56	9.0	22.22	8.6
07 Sun	10.42	8.2	23.11	7.9
08 Mon	11.38	7.4		
09 Tues	00.22	7.3	13.03	6.9
10 Wed	01.58	7.2	14.51	7.3
11 Thur	03.20	7.5	15.58	7.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm – information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm – advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm – information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**
(homelessness) **01656 643643.**
EDUCATION 01656 643643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
(general enquiries) **01656 642200**
SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **01656 670251**
Coychurch Higher Comm Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Comm Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council **01656 720086**
Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council **01656 738804**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
Newcastle Higher Comm Council **01446 750663.**
Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
Pencoed Town Council **01656 869031**
Porthcawl Town Council **01656 782215**
St Brides Minor Comm Council **01656 725031**
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BRAVE MUM'S BATTLE INSPIRES FUND-RAISING EVENT IN BRIDGEND

Police team to box clever and give boost to cancer charity

ABOVE: The police boxers (and mascot!) are in strict training for the breast cancer charity night on March 5.

AFTER recovering from breast cancer 20 years ago, Mrs Kathleen Evans of Coity, learned it had returned during a chance visit to a breast cancer awareness clinic in Bridgend Recreation centre recently.

To her and her family's devastation, a further tumour was discovered and she has begun treatment. While it is a long haul with radio and chemotherapy, things are looking up.

Kathleen and her son Mike, a detective at Bridgend Police Station, are so grateful to Wales Breast Cancer Research that they have launched a drive to raise awareness (and funds) for the charity.

Mike will be joined by 15 fellow police officers from Bridgend, Cardiff, Swansea and Barry for a charity boxing event on Friday, March 5 at Tondu Cricket Club.

None of the police officers has boxing experience but they are taking the challenge seriously and have been undertaking a gruelling 12-week training plan at Police Headquarters and Bettws Boxing Club.

On the night the theme will be pink and all of the fighters will be wearing pink shorts and pink gloves. All funds raised go to fight cancer.

Sponsorship, cash and any items suitable for auction on the night would be well received. Anyone wishing to sponsor the event or make a donation, should contact DC Justin Lott at Porthcawl Police Station on 01656 679518 or donate directly via: *www.crw.org.uk/donations_to_charity.*

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE

DUE to the snowy weather in January, members of Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild had to cancel the meeting and the February meeting was very busy.

Freda introduced Mr Bruce Hawkins, who gave a very interesting talk on whisky (unfortunately we had no samples).

Then a representative from Ty-Cornel came to receive a cheque for £700, raised at the Christmas Fayre held at the Fairways Hotel last December.

A big thank you to all those who supported the Fayre.

The 56th birthday lunch was held at Fairways Hotel this year and very enjoyable it was. Town Mayor Rosemary Deere and her consort, David Deere, were able to join us and we were very pleased, as it was David Deere's birthday. Also able to join us were federation chairman Mrs Judith Jones and Mrs Kit Owen, from federation committee.

Speaker for the day was Mr Philip Sillick MBE, who kept everyone entertained with his talk on life as a magistrate.

There was a special presentation to Mrs Irene Thresher, for her 40 years in the Guild, and Mrs Joan Winn-Jones for 25 years; a nice finish to our birthday lunch!

Members were looking forward to the next meeting in March, which is the AGM. **DR**

Assembly grant for Wildmill local Life centre

WILDMILL Community Life centre in Bridgend is to have a £300,000 facelift.

It is one of 46 community projects in Wales that will share £7 million funding under the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP).

An Assembly spokeswoman said that the scheme helps community and voluntary organisations provide facilities or carry out activities to promote the regeneration of communities.

Since its launch in 2002, CFAP had previously funded 708 projects totalling more than £70 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grand Pavilion earmarked for council grants

PORTHCAWL Town Council is set to donate furniture and equipment to the Grand Pavilion worth £8,500.

The administration committee has recommended that the council foot the bill for new furniture for the Stage Door basement function room.

It would purchase 20 purpose-made stylish tables and 100 chairs for the room, which has undergone refurbishment.

The cost of this furniture is £7,500 and the council has also agreed to buy some equipment needed for the room, to complete the audio-visual equipment suitable for a conference venue. This will cost an extra £1,000.

Conservative group leader David Deere said that the town council had been providing support to the Grand Pavilion for some years and his view was that it was an on-going commitment.

Over the past two years, the council has bought new front-of-house curtains complete with new track and controls and also speakers and amplification to create a new sound system which has won praise from both performers and audiences.

The recommendations of the committee have to be ratified by the full council.

Search is on for park entertainers

LLANGYNWYD Middle Community Council is looking for entertainers to appear at the official opening of Parc Tir Iarll community park on Saturday, April 3.

It wants to hear from choirs, bands/musicians, children's entertainers and local dance groups and anyone who would like to hire a stall for arts and crafts, food, farmers' markets and refreshments.

Contact Mrs Anne Wilkes, The Clerk to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council, Cwmfelin Community Hall, Jenkins Terrace, Cwmfelin, Maesteg, CF34 9LA. Telephone 01656 738804.

Noise report on skateboard park

AN acoustic report on the levels of noise to be generated by the proposed skateboard park in Porthcawl has been commissioned.

Porthcawl Town Council heard that the public protection department in Bridgend needed a site specific report which would assess the noise made by skateboards on the materials that the park was being constructed of.

Coun David Newton Williams, who is heading the skateboard project for the council, said that a survey would have to be carried out otherwise the park may have to be moved from its proposed location.

"It is quite an onerous report that has to be done. The council are quite insistent that it must be done specifically in relation to this site. It would be a desktop exercise that would measure decibel levels to be produced."

Coun John Bunker said that the council had no choice because it was a condition of getting the planning consent.

Council counts cost of salt and grit

THE cost of the severe winter weather to council taxpayers in Bridgend so far is put at £300,000 – and that's on top of the winter budget of £380,000.

The extra money has been needed to pay for additional salt and grit and also to fund the 7,000 man hours that have been needed to keep the road network gritted and cleared. Hand gangs have been in use, as well as the front line gritters.

The council has 540 tonnes of salt in stock at the moment and central government is still controlling supplies on a priority basis, to ensure that every council gets some.

Gritting is continuing every night because of low temperatures.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

EMAIL your news, views and other items of local interest to The GEM at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk or write to us at Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Crematorium charges rise at Coychurch

THE services at the crematorium, which is jointly run by Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taff Councils, is set to rise by ten per cent.

The Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee is being asked tomorrow, Friday, to approve the rise, which will see the price of an adult cremation increase from £386 to £425 from April 1.

According to a report from Richard Fletcher, clerk and technical officer, the extra money is needed to pay for improvements at the crematorium, which includes the installation of replacement cremators.

The crematorium dealt with 1808 cremations in 2009 - 757 from Bridgend, 601 from the Vale, 306 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 54 from non-residents.

At the moment, Coychurch stands 234th out of a list of 255 crematoria for its charges – the highest charges are levied at Harrogate where a fee of £623 is levied.

Increasing the charge to £425 will bring the crematorium in line with those at Swansea and Narberth, which also charge £425 but will put it ahead of Margam, which charges £363. .

All the fees charged at the crematorium for various services will increase from April 1, apart from the funerals of children aged under 16, which remain free as long as they are held on weekdays.

Bridgend musician's pop passage to India

A BRIDGEND musician's dream and for one young drummer, guitarist and singer from Bridgend his dream came true, when his first single topped the Asian charts last September.

Jayce Lewis' story is featured in a new BBC One Wales documentary series on March 9 in 'Planet Wales: Big In India.'

The former fabricator welder was a drummer with a local band. When the band split up in late 2008 and a number of other things went wrong in his life – he was encouraged by friends to write the Icon track, which went on to top the Indian charts.

"I just wrote this track, pitched it to EMI and they knew what to do with it instantly and kind of threw it at the Asian market," says Jayce.

"It launched my career overnight. It was the biggest shock of my life! I've always played guitar and drums and messed around with programming, but writing and singing a song is very new for me as I've only really been writing songs for the past eight months."

The film follows Jayce as he travels out to India with his band - formed from musician friends for the trip - to play the DNA festival.

"It's the only international music festival in India and it attracts up to 40,000 people," he says.

"I was told to be prepared for the response when I got out there, but even with that in mind, to be confronted by these thousands of screaming fans - I still can't quite get my head round it. In the film you see me throw something out into the crowd and they rip the thing apart!"

Limbering up for Sport Relief Mile!

TWO members of staff at Ogmore Valley Life Centre Gareth Powell, assistant and Ivor Anthony, head attendant have completed a 13-mile round trip, to launch the fundraising for Bridgend's Sport Relief Mile.

Ivor and Gareth – setting the standard for fundraising.

The pair ran the six miles from the centre to Ynysawdre Pool before swimming a further one mile (64 lengths of the pool). After drying off, the duo hopped onto their bikes and cycled the six mile return leg back home to Ogmore Vale.

The mile takes place on Sunday, March 21, at Bridgend Athletics Track, organised in partnership with Bridgend Athletic Club.

Nicola Hunt No Limits gym supervisor said: "Participants will get the chance to run alongside fellow local runners, taking part in either a one, three or six mile challenge, raising money for Sport Relief in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Everybody is welcome."

For details, contact your local council leisure centre or visit www.sportsrelief.com.

Rugby star kicks off new estate

FRESH from his exploits against France, Welsh rugby star Jamie Roberts will open a showhome at Barratt's Parc Tyn Y Coed development in Bridgend on Saturday, March 6 (11am - 1pm).

The three-bedroom Palmerston showhouse sports an environmentally-friendly interior with an 'Ethics meets Aesthetics' concept.

Prospective buyers and rugby fans will be invited to have their photograph taken with the 6' 4" sporting hero and quiz him about the current Six Nations Championship.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Well read!

TYNYRHEOL primary school, Llangeinor head Martin Griffiths has given me the names of pupils who have worked hardest at improving their reading abilities this term – as determined by their class teachers.

Each pupil will receive a book, donated by the friends of the school.

Class 1: Noah Pook – '*Read me a Story*' written by Nicola Baxter, illustrated by Catherine Shuttleworth.

Class 2: Ben Parker – '*Children's Knowledge Encyclopedia*' by Parragon.

Class 3: Katie McCann – The Usborne Internet Linked '*Children's Encyclopedia*'.

This small school has been able to raise a football team which has taken part in matches at Cornelly and Pyle.

They have also had four pupils compete in cross country tournaments at various schools throughout the county – Liam Davies, Ioan Davies, Kai Lewis and Amber Crowle, who last Saturday competed in a race at Ogmore Comprehensive School.

They have been ably coached all season by school governor Amelia Davies and secretary Elaine Crowle.

The school also has an up and coming rugby player in Morgan Chard, who has had two trials with Bridgend and District schools rugby team.

Mayor's award

LOCAL MAN Les Phillips has been presented with a Mayor's award for his efforts in the voluntary sector.

Les has served the public as a county councillor over a number of years. He is still a serving community councillor on St Bride's Minor Community Council.

He has also been a school governor (until recently) for Bryncethin Primary School and deputy chair of governors at Sarn Nursery School.

He is still a member of Sarn and Bryncethin Community Association, which recently achieved its objectives of having a building extension added to the public library facilities.

Club venues

ABERKENFIG Boys and Girls Club is providing facilities at two new venues for children aged between six and 11 on two separate evenings.

The first is St John's church hall, Aberkenfig on Tuesdays; the second is the Philip Squires community centre, Coytrahen, on Fridays. This is in addition to the normal venue at Ynysawdre youth centre. All sessions are between 5pm-6.45pm.

Choir's thanks

GARW Valley Male Choir has asked me if I can thank Kevin Williams, who assisted the choir in obtaining a grant from BAVO which has enabled them to purchase a new top-of-the-range keyboard.

This has been a big boon to the choir and has helped raise the quality of performances during their rehearsals at Pontycymer RFC on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Choir concert

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is performing at Ewenny Priory, as part of the Ewenny arts festival on Friday, March 5.

Along with the Bridgend junior big band they will be helping to raise funds for Bridgend YMCA. Tickets are £10, concessions £7.50.

Nature walks

THE South and West Wales wildlife trust is organising a number of events at Parc Slip nature reserve, Tondu, for children's watch groups over the next few months.

On Wednesday, April 7 between 10am-12noon, they will be organising an Easter egg hunt for younger children around the reserve. *To book a place phone 01656 724100.*

The wildlife around the reserve is very interesting at present. Over the last few days, I have seen primroses flowering in the hedgerows, even though there had been heavy frosts.

I have regularly seen that shy and elusive bird, the water rail, and a flock of lapwings, which hopefully will be enticed to breed on the reserve.

Even today (Sunday) I have seen a beautiful bullfinch in the car park, which is rarely seen in public areas.

Musical feast

LAST Saturday, I went to a musical feast of a concert at Maesteg Town Hall, where all available tickets had been sold and the hall was packed.

The concert had been organised to raise funds for Nantyffyllon RFC. The club has become so successful it now has 12 teams, including a ladies team.

Unfortunately, it only has one pitch and its training and changing facilities are now inadequate for the number of teams the club supports.

The club is hoping to provide more pitches and a clubhouse, not only suitable for its teams, but to be used as a community centre.

Three of the male choirs in the Maesteg area, Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch, Côr Yr Hen Blwyf and the Maesteg Gleemen had amalgamated for only the second time in their history to form a choir of approximately 100 choristers to perform at the concert.

Under renowned conductor Dr Hadyn James, they had only rehearsed twice together, but their performance on the night was outstanding.

The master of ceremonies was the former British Lions and Welsh rugby star JJ Williams, who had started his career with Nantyffyllon RFC, and is a patron and major benefactor to the club, and who assists the youngsters at the club at every opportunity.

Dr Hadyn James was born in Maesteg and lived in Nantyffyllon as a youngster. He is a familiar figure conducting the massed singing during matches at the Millennium Stadium.

The soprano soloist (and rising diva of the future) was Charlotte Ellet, a young lady originally from Llantwit Major who had studied music at the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio.

Her accompanist was Rhian Yamin-Ali, who is accompanist for the Noteworthy mixed choir, and musical director for Maesteg Meibion a'r Cylch, who also took part.

The accompanist for the combined choirs for the evening was talented Ryan Wood, who has also accompanied the Cardiff-based choirs 'Only Men Aloud' and Serendipity.

Three other soloists deserve mention – Rhydian Jenkins, a 12-year-old soprano, who won the junior section of the Bridgend 'Young Singer of the Year' competition in 2009, and came third in the prestigious Gwyl Cerdd Dant Festival in Newport.

Aled Williams is an up and coming tenor who won the senior section of the Bridgend 'Young Singer of the Year' competition in 2009.

Also worthy of mention is top tenor and assistant musical director of the Maesteg Gleemen, Anthony Bwye.

The evening finished with everyone singing *Cwm Rhondda* and then the Welsh national anthem *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.

Wedding date!

OGMORE Valley male voice choir would like to congratulate Rhian Roberts and Lee Michael Wooding, who are tying the knot of matrimony at Ebenezer Chapel, Dunvant on Saturday, March 6, where the choir will be singing the hymns for the ceremony.

In the evening, the choir will also be performing at the concert in the Bridgend Recreation Centre organised by Jeremy Matthews, to raise funds in support of the charity 'Help the Heroes'.

The choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre on Thursday evenings, all are welcome to listen in.

Read your GEM online at *bridgend-today.co.uk* **or at** *porthcawl-today.co.uk*

WICK RFC PAY TRIBUTE TO A LOCAL TEACHER

Mr Witchell is circled to the left – the photograph was taken in1986.

AFTER many weeks of no games, Wick RFC was eager to restart the season with a home league fixture against Pyle seconds last week.

A tribute was paid at the game, to local teacher Nigel Witchell, who died recently. Mr Witchell, pictured above in 1986, taught many of the club members at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School between 1971 and 1996.

He was a popular teacher and will be greatly missed. His son Dave is a current player and coaching assistant with the club.

Wick, the league leaders, had not beaten Pyle for several years, although they did get within one score earlier this season.

Pyle fielded a youthful front row and considered passive scrumages but decided against that with a view to giving them valuable experience.

The pressure eventually told at the set piece and non-contested scrums were called at half-time, with the game poised at 15–0 to Wick. Territory and possession had been even until then.

The second half was a try fest, with six tries scored. Even though the conditions were quite sticky, both teams endeavoured to run the ball at every chance.

Wick benefited tactically more than Pyle with the advent of passive scrums, replacing the front row with back rowers Kieran David and Mathew Lewis. With this new freedom, the Wick pack cut loose and dominated the remainder of the game.

Pyle scored a well-worked consolation try, combining forwards and backs.

Wick point scorers: Tries by John Birkett, Bryn McNaughton, Rob Molby, Dai Clark, Rhodri Thomas, John Cooper (two). Paul Creed penalty (two) and conversion (one). Dan Powell conversions (four). **Full score 51–5.**

PP

'Back Fairtrade' an AM urges local shoppers

Pictured with Janice Gregory AM (left to right) viewing Fairtrade products at Pencoed are Co-op employee, Christopher Ford, customer, Michael Finch and the Co-op director, Brian Rees.

JANICE GREGORY AM recently visited the local Co-op in Pencoed to check out its range of Fairtrade products.

She is encouraging residents in Ogmore to buy Fairtrade goods, as part of a two-week campaign, which runs until Sunday, March 7, which aims to promote a fairer deal for workers in the developing world.

Janice Gregory said: "Fairtrade is about making sure that we all play our part in encouraging sustainable development, which offers better working rights and process for marginalized producers and workers in countries across the world."

Maesteg artist's work has come back home

SIX paintings by the Maesteg-born artist Christopher Williams have returned home to the Llynfi Valley.

They join those already in the town that were donated to the former Maesteg UDC by the artist before his death in 1934. These hang in Maesteg Town Hall.

The extra paintings, which are owned by Bridgend County Borough Council, have been handed over to Maesteg Town Council and will hang in the newly-refurbished town council offices.

They will be positioned in two of the ground floor rooms at the offices and one will hang on the main staircase.

Three other paintings will remain hanging at the Civic Offices in Bridgend – in the committee rooms and on the stairway to the public gallery.

Christopher Williams, who was born in Commercial Street where his parents ran a tea shop, was a member of the Royal Academy and carried out some high-profile commissions during his career, including one to paint the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George, and another to depict the Battle of Mametz Wood during the First World War, in which Welsh regiments were heavily engaged.

The old Ogwr Borough Council bought some of his paintings at auction, as there was an intention at that time to create a Christopher Williams gallery in the town, but nothing happened and most of the paintings have been left in storage.

Some were also donated to the council by the artist's son, Mr Ivor Williams.

THE GEM QUIZ LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Llangeinor AFC are the top scorers

THERE were only two matches played in the GEM Quiz League on Monday, February 22.

They were the semi-finals of the KO Cup and the Plate Competition. The highest score was by Llangeinor AFC in the Cup.

Their game against Cabo Roche was close in the first part, and they had a three-point lead going into the individual round.

This they duly won by 11-3 and though Cabo Roche scored well, Llangeinor slowly but surely increased their lead and eventually won by 73-55.

The other Cup game, too, was close early on and was 19-all going into the individual round, which went to the Royal Oak Nomads 10-7 against Tondu Railway Club, who dropped a further six, by the halfway stage.

In the second half, Tondu virtually matched their opponents point-for-point but the earlier deficit was just beyond them and Nomads ran out winners by 71-61.

In the Plate semis, Mackworth Arms had a 71-57 win away to Royal Oak Royals and the gap in league positions proved decisive at the Oldcastle where their 'A' team triumphed by 58-39.

Here are this week's posers:-

1. In David Hockney's portrait 'Mr & Mrs Clark & Percy', what was Percy?

2. What name is shared by rivers running through Rostov in Russia, Aberdeen in Scotland and Sheffield in England?

3. In which country did Jenson Button get his first Formula One Grand Prix victory?

4. Who was both the 22nd and 24th President of the USA?

A.Rudge
(Hon.Sec. BGQL)

1. A cat
2. Don
3. Hungary
4. Stephen Grover Cleveland

BLOOD DONORS

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold donor sessions in the area next month.

Memorial Hall, Bryncoch, Bryncethin, Friday, April 9, 10am-6pm.

Telephone 0800 252266, or visit web page www.welshblood.org.uk for further information.

GUIDES CENTENARY EVENT ATTRACTS CROWDS TO PENCOED

These pictures of the recent Guiding event in Pencoed (previously reported in The GEM) were taken by MANDY THOMAS and *are available for purchase. (Telephone 07974 518347). These and other pictures for sale can be viewed at* *www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk*

Youth dancers get a taste of competition at the Bridgend Centre

THE Bridgend Recreation Centre was the venue for the Youth Cymru SuperDance Competition.

Youth dance groups from across south Wales came to compete for a chance to compete at the national final in March.

Rebound Dance Group from Llantwit Youth Centre competed in the junior and intermediate divisions with solos and team dance pieces.

Mia Pegrum (aged 12) performed first with her solo in the junior section, then later as part of 'TRANS-PERFORMERS' with team mates Lucy Grahame (13), Aimee Wilson (13), Menna George (12) and Jenny Massingham (12).

They all performed very well and with confidence for a first competition.

The intermediate section was represented by Kiera Stanton (13) in the solo division where she came runner-up.

RIGHT: Getting ready for their big moment on stage.

The team 'FORMULA' had dancers Erin Allison (14), Kiera Stanton (13), Morgan Turnball (13) and Sophie George (13) perform as mad scientists.

The judges enjoyed this dance piece, awarding them third place. These four dancers will now compete against dancers from across Wales in Llandrindod Wells on March 6.

Emma Mallam – dance co-ordinator for Motion Control, said: "I would like to congratulate all the dancers for their wonderful performances at their first dance competition, they are all stars!

"I would like to say 'good luck' to them at the national finals, and thanks go to dance leader Liberty Jones for her creativity and hard work with Rebound Dance Group since starting teaching at the end of last year. Recognition must also be given to the staff of Llantwit Youth Centre, who came and supported the dancers at the competition."

Rebound Dance is part of the Motion Control Dance Programme, which is a partnership initiative between Vibe Experience and the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service, which provides dance opportunities for young people in the Vale.

For more information, please contact 01446 733622 or email emma@vibeexperience.com.

ABOVE: ???????

'FLYING VET' IS BAILED

'FLYING VET' Maurice Kirk appeared at the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry on February 24.

Mr Kirk (64) of Tynewydd Road, Barry, has been charged with using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause alarm or distress at the Caswell Clinic, Bridgend, on February 10, and resisting two policemen in the execution of their duty.

Mr Kirk was granted bail until April 28.

LATEST NEWS FROM BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

Borg boost for survival hopes

THE Bridgend Borg shrugged off their recent poor form to overturn a good Pentyrch team on their own patch, earning a welcome 3.5 points in the process.

The Borg have now rocketed up to fifth spot on the back of this victory.

The contest was won on the top boards with Mike Cleaves and Jonathan Kell beating Dave Lewis and Will Harwood respectively.

Mike Kearn was the only casualty of this clash, with Pentyrch A's Viv Martin getting the better of him on board 4. Neil Stuart shared the spoils with Cyril Ley and Anthony Baker beat Ray Angle on board 5.

In Division 4, Bridgend SG-1 maintained their push for promotion with a tough trip to league leaders North Cardiff Cheetahs. The match was not without controversy.

Half an hour into the contest, newcomer Ken Wardle's mobile phone started ringing, quickly the Bridgend players exited the venue so as not to cause to much distraction. His opponent Nessie Georgion was quick to his feet, declaring he was claiming the win under FIDE rules.

FIDE rules are the basis by which all competitive chess is played, and the rule in question:

12.3 b. Without the permission of the arbiter a player is forbidden to have a mobile phone or other electronic means of communication in the playing venue, unless they are completely switched off. If any such device produces a sound, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win. However, if the opponent cannot win the game by any series of legal moves, his score shall be a draw.

The East Glamorgan Chess League is an association which prides itself on friendly and fair competitive chess. As such, the league has differing rules concerning mobile phones, and where league rules and FIDE rules differ, the league rules take precedence.

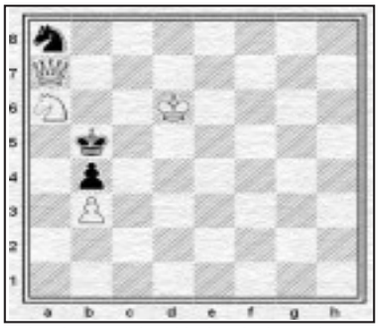
The EG rules say:

Players will be allowed to take mobiles into the playing room, but are requested where possible to have ring-tones switched off, and should not make outgoing calls during a match.

Ken was asked to switch off his ringtone and Nessie was informed of the East Glamorgan rules which allow the phone to be in the match room. Nessie refused to continue the game, therefore Ken was forced to sit and wait until his opponent's time had run out.

After the phonegate saga, it was back to the chess. Stuart Mustoe, another of the new players to join the club, impressed on board 5. He completely outplayed Stephen Bailey, attacking his kingside with some venom. The North Cardiff captain simply could not deal with the danger.

The North Cardiff Cheetahs have a handsome lead at the top of the table, largely due to their top three boards. David Hambrook, Vince Williams and Simon Blackmore outrated SG-1's top three boards by an average of 300 grading points.



The Bridgend players put in some good performances despite the 'phonegate' distractions, but the inevitable ensued. Nonetheless, the 3-2 defeat keeps SG-1 on track for promotion.

WEEKLY CHESS PUZZLE

Solve the chess puzzle above and submit your entry to us. Each week there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs. In addition, each entry is placed into our monthly prize draw.

White to play
Mate in 2 moves Puzzle: BCC-015
Answer: Puzzle BCC-013
1. Bd5+ Kg7 2. Re7+ Kh6 3. Rxh7++
NO WINNER.

Entries to: The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL; Email entries to : andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk

'Don't put town library out of bounds to users'

NEWS that the Bridgend library may be moved from the town centre to a re-developed Bridgend Recreation Centre, has rung some "alarm bells" for Bridgend Conservative candidate Helen Baker.

"While I fully accept that the present library does not meet modern standards, I do have concerns about taking it from its present convenient location," she said.

"I understand that the library is far too small to meet the demands of Bridgend's growing population, but I am worried about the accessibility of the proposed site at Newbridge Fields.

"The residents of Bridgend want and deserve a modern library with an enhanced book stock, but they need to get to it as well. At the moment, the library is within easy walking distance of the bus station."

Calling for the council to consider access issues before making a final decision, she insisted: "Not everyone has a car and for those who have to walk, the Recreation Centre is a fair step away from town.

"Although the distance is acceptable for the fit, it may be too far for the elderly and those with disabilities. The last thing we want to do is to put the library out of bounds for these users."

Mrs Baker is calling for the council to look into the possibility of re-routing some of the town's bus services so that they pass the Recreation Centre.

Footnote: Do readers feel it is wrong to move the town library from its present central position? If you have a view, write to us at the address given at the foot of this page.

FIRM CLOSES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"But sadly, there was just no work out there," he said. "The high end of the market dried up altogether and even the usual pub and club refurbishment work had largely ceased, because they are having such a tough time at the moment, with lots closing.

"We could see no way of keeping going or of finding a buyer to keep it going. We tried to market it as a going concern, but the reason it was in difficulties was that there were no orders and no cash flow."

Mr Cullen said it had been a very sad day when the closure was announced:"In all the years I have been in this business, I have never known a group of workers who were losing their jobs break into spontaneous applause when Keith Evans rose to thank them all for their hard work.

"It was very emotional. Some had been with him for more than 30 years."

Mr Cullen said that at the time of the closure, the firm was only doing a tenth of the business it needed to keep going.

The premises and all the equipment are intact and are being sold at present.

Having difficulties finding your TV channels?
Try re-tuning or call 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).

get set for digital

West Park children enjoy their traditional eisteddfod – with a few special competitions

THE pupils at West Park Primary School in Porthcawl enjoyed a traditional eisteddfod, and a high proportion of the girls were in national costume.

In every school these days, of course, it is a little harder to get the boys to choose the male equivalent.

The chance to wear a Welsh rugby shirt is just too tempting!

In addition to the traditional eisteddfod events, there were competitions for the best-designed leek and daffodil!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM NUGENT

ABOVE: Winners in the 'best frame' competition.

The best handwriting winners.

Winners in the best daffodil competition.

ABOVE: The best leek winners.

Capturing the magic of St David's Day as local pupils celebrate the nation's saint!

AT Nottage Primary School in Porthcawl, the pupils started the day at their smartest, ready for the various eisteddfod events.

For the rugby fans, the talk was of interception tries and that sensational comeback that was thwarted by the final whistle.

However, while Welsh rugby slip-ups can cast adults into a pit of despair, the young pupils were putting the result behind them and looking forward to eisteddfod action instead!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM NUGENT

LEFT and RIGHT: Smiles all round from the Nottage Primary School pupils!

ABOVE and RIGHT: Two very traditional groups of pupils, all dressed up for the saint's day!

Older People's Forum says 'thank you' to pupils

Nisha Shukla (involvement officer), Katie Fish (St Cyres), Vale Mayor (Coun Emlyn Williams) Sophie Roberts (St Cyres), Winnie Davies (executive member of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum).

THE Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, was welcomed by officers and members of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum when he attended a coffee morning and information day at the Barry Library. The Forum and its members expressed gratitude to St Cyres sixth formers, Sophie Roberts and Katie Fish, for their help in making the well attended coffee morning and information day so successful.

Vale AM offers support to court 'admin' staff

THE campaign to stop the Vale Magistrates Court's administrative work being moved to Bridgend is gathering pace.

As well as meeting John Smith MP, the administrative team has met with Vale AM Jane Hutt.

She was told that four members of staff will be forced to redeploy to other courts in south Wales with only two members to remain in Barry.

Three years ago, there were 11 members of the administrative team, now there are only six.

Jane Hutt said: "The Vale Magistrates Court is extremely busy with daily criminal courts plus a family court, domestic abuse court and courts to deal with a range of fines.

"It is not clear how there can be savings if case files are kept in Bridgend and would have to be transported daily to Barry."

She added: "I have made representations to Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Justice Minister Bridget Prentice MP, making the point that Barry is the largest town in Wales and it needs a fully functioning magistrates court, providing local justice for local people."

Barry murder trial continues as court is told of stabbing

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN alleged to have been murdered during an incident in Barry when, it is claimed, he was stabbed through the heart, "had a fiery temper" a witness told a jury at Cardiff Crown Court.

But Paul Michael Jones, a married man, who suffered two fatal wounds, was always "a happy guy", said his friend of 20 years, Christopher Painting.

Before the court is John Chivers, 30, of Cardiff Road, Barry, who denies the charge of murdering Mr Jones, who was known as 'Jonah'.

Prosecutor Michael Chambers said that the two men, Mr Painter and the defendant's girlfriend, Dominique Fitzgerald, were initially drinking in the 'King Billy' pub in Cadoxton on the night of August 3.

Later, outside her house, Chivers and Mr Jones were involved in a dispute, exchanged blows and shortly after, it is alleged, the defendant stabbed him twice through the heart with a carving knife he had obtained from the kitchen of Miss Fitzgerald's house.

After the alleged incident, Chivers left the scene and took an overdose, said Mr Chambers.

Mr Painting told the jury that his friend Mr Jones and the defendant were speaking in the pub and seemed to be getting on well.

Later, Mr Jones drove Mr Painting and the defendant to Columbus Close, where Miss Fitzgerald lived.

At one point, he said, he saw Chivers "strike Miss Fitzgerald to the face with the back of his hand."

"She hit the deck. Mr Jones said: 'I'm not having that' got out of the car and confronted him."

Mr Painting said they had a slanging match and went for each other, and he tried to defuse the situation, but was struck through a fence into a garden.

He noticed Mr Jones going to his car to get something to defend himself.

He next remembers him lying on the road saying "I've been stabbed."

Mr Painting said that the defendant had attacked him and demonstrated how he had stabbed at him.

Cross examined by defence counsel, David Evans QC, he said he had no idea how Mr Jones was later found to have a high content of cocaine in his blood.

"I didn't see him taking cocaine and that's not a lie."

He agreed his friend had "a fiery temper" but he had never seen him strike anyone in his company.

He added that he was also unaware that Mr Jones threw the first punch that night, but he did know, he said, that he had been in trouble with the police in the past.

Earlier in the trial, a female witness said she had seen some of the incident from the bathroom of her parents' home after having a shower.

She noticed the defendant coming out of the house with a knife.

She described the events as something "like a bad dream".

In a statement read to the court, a scenes of crime investigator said that the following day he recovered a carving knife embedded in a lawn in a house in Columbus Close, and a wheel brace from the footwell of Mr Jones' Renault car.

The case continues...

Airport's exercise boost for Ty Hafan

CARDIFF Airport has donated £700 to Ty Hafan as a thank you for providing volunteers in an emergency training exercise.

A spokesperson explained that the airport was in need of volunteers for an exercise at the end of 2009, and the hospice at Sully pulled out all the stops to find willing 'pseudo holidaymakers' to play passengers and their families involved in an aircraft accident.

The airport donated £10 per volunteer to the children's charity.

Airport Contingency Planner Avril Brown explained: "Under our licence with the Civil Aviation Authority the airport is expected to hold regular emergency exercises, to ensure that both the airport and local authority emergency services have the skills to deal with a major aircraft incident.

"We've struggled in the past to find people to take part in exercises as the volunteers are required to spend long periods of time on the airfield or in the terminal building.

"This time Ty Hafan thankfully offered their assistance and rallied the troops together, in return for a donation to help raise much needed funds."

Candidate backs cancer campaign

ALANA DAVIES, Labour's parliamentary candidate in the Vale, is backbacking Cancer Research UK's Cancer Commitment Campaign.

"I am delighted to pledge my support for Cancer Research UK's vital campaign. Cancer remains the public's number one fear. With a concerted effort from the next parliament, we can give hope to the millions of people affected by cancer and their friends and family," she said.

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Rotary holds its 'Thanks for Life' charity luncheon

AS part of the big national event 'Thanks for Life', the Rotary Club of Cowbridge held a charity lunch at the Bear Hotel on Sunday with 130 guests.

Dr Keith Barnard-Jones, a senior international Rotarian and specialist in Rotary's work on polio eradication, gave a fascinating and moving presentation on polio eradication and the work of Rotary.

A second speaker was Harry Scott, a comedian who had the entire audience in raptures of laughter. The two excellent speakers made it a most successful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The proceeds were £1,400, all of which will be donated to Rotary's polio eradication project.

AL

ABOVE: The Cowbridge president, Colin Jones, with Dr Keith Barnard-Jones.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

AT the Mothers Union monthly Eucharist in All Saints, Southerndown, on February 26, six new members were enrolled into the branch.

On March 5, the Women's Worldwide Day of Prayer will be held in All Saints Church, Southerndown, at 7.30pm, and at branches around the diocese.

ON Sunday, February 28, a Eucharist was held in All Saints Church, Southerndown to celebrate St David's Day.

The congregation heard of the work of St David and the association with St Illtyds, Llantwit Major.

THE Venerable Philip Morris would like to thank everyone for the presents and cards received for his 'significant' birthday.

ON March 5, a charity concert will be held in Ewenny Priory at 7.30pm in aid of Bridgend YMCA, featuring Maesteg Gleemen, Bridgend Junior Big Band and special guests.

OGMORE-by-SEA Retired Residents Association meets today at the Watermill (March 4) when the programme will be a 'Trip to Pembrokeshire' with Joy and Eric.

On March 18, there is a bar lunch followed by the annual general meeting at 2pm.

Council 'ignored' over planning, – says councillor

RESPONSES from Llantwit Major Town Council to planning applications are not always reported, according to Vale councillor Gwyn John.

He told the town council that when the planning report goes to Vale councillors, some of the Llantwit applications are marked as having had no response from the town council.

"I feel it's probably down to a time delay in the town council getting the council's observations back into the Vale and then them putting it into the report. I would ask the clerk to look at this," he stated.

Clerk Lesley Stokes replied that she always rings a planning officer to ask when the deadline is for observations to be in by, and to see if observations can be sent in late if the Llantwit meeting falls afterwards.

Coun Russell Downe said that even when the town council's observations were reported, it was galling to find that they were ignored.

"I chaired our planning committee for five years, but it was frustrating after going out to view a property and making a recommendation, to find that those views were not taken on board by the Vale Council.

"They are not listening to us," he complained.

Vale Cash offices will close

THE cash offices in Llantwit, Cowbridge and Penarth will close tomorrow, Friday.

Coun Gwyn John told Llantwit Town Council that a publicity programme had been put in place by the Vale Council to notify the public of the changes and leaflets had also been placed in each community.

From Monday, the libraries in each of the three communities will offer increased services to replace those lost by the closure. Payments can be made at post offices, banks or at other approved pay points.

Council acts over Llantwit Major cottages

THE future of cottages in the Square at Llantwit Major is being explored by the Llantwit Major Town Council.

Coun Gwyn John reported that he was hoping to meet a member of the Amos family, which was believed to own the empty properties in the Square, some of which had been converted into shops.

The town council is anxious to see them brought back into use.

"I know the lady involved and she is visiting the area in March.

" She intends to improve the houses and then either re-let them or sell them as houses. I also hope to get information about the Globe Field."

The council feels this could be developed as a replacement cemetery once the present one is full.

Pupils back Interact fight against polio

THE Llantwit Major Interact club is planning to raise money to help eradicate polio by asking Llantwit Major Comprehensive School sixth form students to make and sponsor purple hand prints on a large poster.

This will represent vaccinations given to prevent polio, and will provide a lasting reminder of the money that was raised.

When children in the third world are given polio vaccinations, they have a finger painted purple to show that the vaccination has been given. The Llantwit Major Interactors are year-12 and 13 students at the town's comprehensive school.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people aged from 14 to 18. Llantwit Major Interact club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, which provides support and guidance, but in common with all Interact clubs throughout the world, is self-governing and self-supporting.

The event is part of Rotary's national Thanks for Life campaign, that will see hundreds of Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland linking up with schools, businesses, organisations and individuals to hold a range of fundraising events to raise the £1 million target.

Rotary across the world aims to raise £130 million to match £225 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The resulting £355 million will directly support immunisation campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyse children, robbing them of their future and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

Polio is a crippling, and sometimes fatal, disease and still a very harrowing reality for children in parts of Africa and Asia and threatens children everywhere.

It is highly virulent and only an air flight away from the UK. Every £1 raised in this campaign will purchase five doses of the special anti-polio vaccine. These children will be protected against polio – forever.

We are so close to stamping out polio and we hope this enjoyable event will encourage more people to get behind the initiative. It is vital that we eradicate it from the four remaining endemic countries or the likelihood is that the disease will spread again to the countries which have been cleared.

With the public's help we can destroy polio.

Interested residents can find out more about the fight to end polio at the web site www.ribi.org/thanks-for-life.

GARETH REES
(Llantwit Rotary Club president)

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

'Lock out the burglars!'
– police warning

THERE were 40 crimes in Llantwit Major in the past month – including some opportunist burglaries.

Police are warning householders to keep their back doors locked at all times.

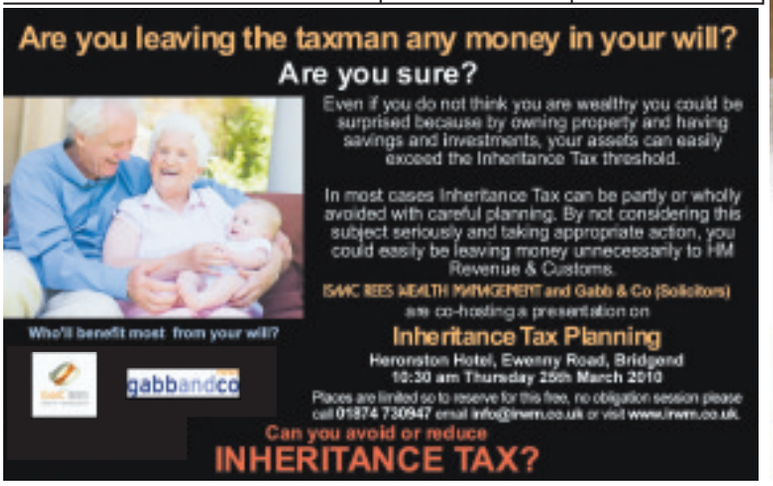
Sgt Nick Kihlberg stated that there were three cases where burglars had gone around randomly trying doors and they had found some unlocked.

"They did not enter the premises – they just reached in and grabbed what was by the door. We also had a case in Ham Lane where a back door was pushed in."

He said inquiries were on-going and some arrests had been made.

There were also five drugs-related incidents and three shoplifting cases.

Coun Molly Lane commented that the burglaries were frightening because people were in the houses at the time. "It's opportunism. They just go around trying doors. They are no threat. One lady only realised her handbag was missing hours later. It is unpleasant, but the lesson is, lock your door!" said Sgt Kihlberg



BRASS BANDS DESCEND ON PORTHCAWL FOR THIS YEAR'S MINERS' EISTEDDFOD

ABOVE: The trophies are ready on stage for the presentation.

ABOVE (left to right): Mrs Veronica Rees, Dewi Roger Price, Coun David Newton-Williams, Coun Jeff Tildesley (Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council), and Doug John.

LEFT: The mayor with Grand Pavilion staff who were on duty.

ABOVE: The Secretary's Rosebowl went to Jonathan Pippen of the BTM Band.

ABOVE: Gwyn Owen of the Seindorf Beaumaris Band) received the Graham Rees Memorial Award from Mrs Veronica Rees.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

IT was hailed a highly-successful day at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion when the 13th Welsh Open Brass Bands Entertainment Championship took place, again under the auspices of the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod.

Roger Price, the secretary and organiser, said that the numbers were again slightly up on last year, but that this time it appeared that a much higher percentage of the audience remained in the hall throughout, rather than leaving when 'their' band had played.

The balcony (reserved) seats were again virtually sold out within a short time of the event starting.

THE RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

The Graham Rees Memorial Award went to Gwyn Owen of Bangor, Gwynedd (Beaumaris Band)

The Premier Award, **the Ciswo Challenge Cup** went to the Tredegar Town Band, and runners-up were BTM, who took the Tower Colliery Cup, while third prize went to the Tongwwynlais Temperance Band.

The **Eifion W Rogers Cup** went to the Staines Brass Band, who also took the Porthcawl Town Council Cup.

The **Secretary's Rosebowl** went to Jonathan Pippen (BTM Band), while the Rosemary Deere Shield – went to Alexander Rees (Tongwynlais)

For the Tredegar Town Band, it was the eighth time that they had taken the premier award.

Jonathan Pippen (the trombone player with the BTM band, has now taken the Secretary's Rosebowl – for the most outstanding solo instrumentalist on the day – for the fourth consecutive year!

ABOVE: The CISWO Challenge Cup went to Tredegar and was presented by Coun Jeff Tildesley.

ABOVE: The Porthcawl Town Council Cup was presented to Staines Brass by Coun David Newton-Willams.

Forestry Commission clears out the 'newcomers' from Hensol

VISITORS to the Forestry Commission Wales woodlands at Hensol, near Cowbridge, should notice a difference this spring, thanks to careful restoration work.

Areas between trees and along forest tracks – known as forest rides – have been cleared of some of the trees to improve the appearance of the woodlands and to create new habitats for wildlife, including butterflies and birds.

A Forestry Commission Wales spokeswoman said: "Woodlands such as Hensol date back to at least 1600.

"The work to the forest rides here is part of Forestry Commission Wales' programme of restoring ancient woodlands by removing non-native trees that were planted in the past, such as conifers. In the future, these woodlands will be dominated by native trees such as oak, birch, rowan and ash."

She added that more types of wildlife live in the first 10 metres of any woodland ride edge than in the rest of the woodlands that surround them.

The extra light allowed into the woodlands by the work at Hensol means that flora and fauna have a chance to flourish and visitors are likely to spot many more spring and summer flowers this year.

A local forester, Matthew Whitehead, said: "Restoring native and ancient woodlands such as Hensol offers environmental benefits, as well as helping to preserve the special landscape character of Wales.

New information boards have been erected in the car park to tell visitors about the benefits of the restoration work and to outline long-term aims for the woodlands.

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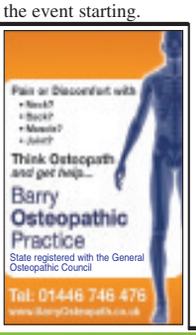


Troops back St David's Day appeal as....

Local residents 'Go Red' to help the disadvantaged young

No 6 Platoon, First Battalion Royal Welsh show their support for the Prince's Trust Cymru's Go Red appeal.

LOCAL residents have been rallying to a campaign to help raise money for disadvantaged young people in Wales – by going red to mark St David's Day.

Barry junior school, St Helen's RC, was just one of those taking part in the Wales-wide annual appeal, Go Red, organised by youth charity the Prince's Trust Cymru, which helps fund practical and financial support for young people help them get back into work, education or training.

"This year, the Trust is hoping to raise £10,000 by encouraging people to make contributions and fundraise by dressing in red for the day, making red cakes, or taking part in red-themed," said Rick Libbey, director of the Prince's Trust Cymru.

"Helping young people to develop their skills, confidence and motivation is crucial to get them back into work or education. By simply raising money through red-themed activities, all of the organisations are helping young people in Wales get back on their feet."

Rick Libbey continues: "Every year, we need £3 million to carry out our work in Wales, all of which we raise from voluntary sources.

"It is only through fundraising initiatives such as Go Red that we are able to help so many disadvantaged young people in Wales.

"We are very grateful to those who agreed to take part in this year's appeal, and we hope that the activities will inspire even more people to get patriotic and Go Red!

"Importantly, any money raised in Wales will stay in Wales to help young people to turn their lives around."

For more information about The Prince's Trust or to take part in Go Red please visit www.princes-trust.org.uk/go_red.

St David's Day in the language of the Bible

by ALFRED MILLS

DURING Mr WGA Turner's reign as manager of Aberthaw and Rhoose Cement Works, he suggested a periodical about the works plans and activities would give pleasure.

The welfare officer, the late Mr John Malings, was entrusted to edit *The Channel* and be responsible for its success or otherwise.

It proved a great success and more than 110 issues were printed.

Mr Malings occasionally penned 'The Chronicles of the Scribe' in a few issues, using biblical language.

This particular one relates to St David's Day and the reaction of 'The King' to the missing daffodils...

And it came to pass in those days that the king commanded his servants saying: Let us make our abode a thing of beauty. Command that flowers appear upon our windows that all may enjoy them.

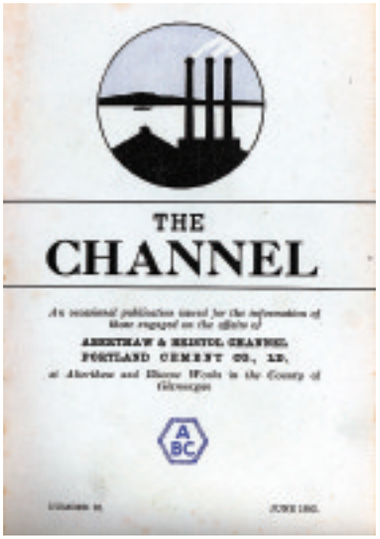
And his servants spake unto those which worked with iron and were skilled in the use of metals, saying: Make us now boxes of iron that we may fit them to the windows. And it was done.

Then were the boxes sent unto those which tilled the ground, and they filled them with bulbs, even with daffodils, so that the boxes overflowed. Then was the king pleased, and awaited the coming of the spring with joy.

And it came to pass that upon the last day of the month, even the month of February, three blooms appeared. Now the next day was a feast day, and the king arose, saying: Let us now see our blooms, whether they have prospered. And behold, they were gone.

Then was the king exceeding wroth, and his countenance was changed, and he sent for the damsel which played upon the typewriter and said unto her: Issue now an edict and have it copies many times, and distribute it among the people. Thus and thus shall ye write unto them:

Thus saith the king, that sitteth upon the throne: Who hath dared to put forth his hand and pluck the flowers which the king commanded to be planted? He shall verily be cast into outer darkness if he be taken.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Then certain of his servants spake softly unto him, saying: O my lord the king, let not they countenance be changed, neither take the matter thus to heart. Hath the king forgotten that it is the feast of St David? Peradventure one of they servants hath taken the blooms as an offering.

Did we not have many roses last year and not one of them was taken? Now, we pray thee, speak softly unto they servants; per-adventure it was a driver of one of the chariots which deliver they goods for thee, and not one of thine own servants.

So the heart of the king was softened and a gentle edict was issued, that the flowers were for all to enjoy and not for one to pick. And the flowers bloomed exceedingly so that they were good to look upon, and thus they remained many days.

Local historian Alfred Mills (aged 98) lives in Barry and is a regular GEM contributor.

Llandough inspection was followed by ward closure

A SNAP inspection at Llandough Hospital led to the closure of a ward because of poor cleanliness.

The "unannounced cleanliness spot check" was carried out by staff from the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW).

The inspectors called during refurbishment work at the hospital and found that "the general standards of cleanliness in the public corridors was poor and cluttered, with equipment and beds which were visibly dusty."

The inspectors went on to say that all the operating theatres, anaesthetic rooms and recovery areas were found to have "an acceptable standard of cleanliness."

However, some wards visited were found to have a poor standard of cleanliness, with high levels of dust. and issues in relation to estates were also identified.

The inspectors went on: "On ward East 8, we raised concerns in relation to the progress of an action plan, issued in May 2009, to address cleanliness and infection control issues.

"Following our visit, ward East 8 was closed for refurbishment. We have been assured that the issues identified will be addressed as soon as possible."

In a joint statement, University Health Board chair, David Francis, and chief executive, Jan Williams said:

"Cardiff and Vale University Health Board accepts in full the findings of the report published by Health Inspectorate Wales, following its unannounced cleanliness spot check at Llandough University Hospital in November 2009.

"We were disappointed that the standards of cleanliness found by the inspection team at the hospital were unacceptable and took immediate steps, including the closure of one ward (East 8) in order to make improvements.

"We are particularly disappointed that this failure, coming so soon after the new health board's formation, detracts from all the excellent work that is being done by our staff, day in and day out."

The statement continued: "We are determined that the cleanliness standards for our hospitals and clinics will be among the best, and the board is investing in a rolling programme of refurbishment at Llandough, encompassing both individual wards and the hospital more generally."

They added that more staff training would take place, and that an action plan had been put in place to tackle the HIW criticisms.

The statement concluded: "We give our full commitment to patients, staff and the public that we will not tolerate sub-standard levels of cleanliness at any of our hospitals or other premises."

Plaid call for St David's Day bank holiday

DR IAN JOHNSON, Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate for the Vale, has called for a St David's Day Bank Holiday to be introduced.

Dr Johnson said: "March 1 is a special day for us in Wales and it should be a national celebration recognised by an official Bank Holiday.

"The United Kingdom, with eight days of bank holiday, has the lowest in the European Union, while the average across the 27 countries is between 11.5 and 12.5 days of bank holidays per year. Some have as many as 18.

"In Scotland, the Scottish Government gives workers the right to choose between taking a day off on St Andrew's Day, or a different holiday, while in Northern Ireland, there are two additional bank holidays more than the rest of the UK – a St Patrick's Day holiday and the 12th of July, the celebration of the Battle of the Boyne.

"Why is it that we are not allowed to hold a similar celebration here?"

FOOTNOTE: ***Should St David's Day be a national holiday in Wales? If you have a view, write to The GEM at the address given on page 2.***

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GWYNFOR'S 'GIFT FROM BARRY –TO WALES AND THE WORLD'

LEFT: *The ceremony was concluded with a musical performance from the talented pupils who comprise Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc choir.*

ABOVE: *Father and son – Mr Alcwyn Evans, Gwynfor's son, with the bust.*

PHOTOGRAPHS by JOHN O'BEIRNE

ABOVE: *On the left, John Meiron Morris, the sculptor and Ray Smith, the carpenter*

LEFT: *Members of the committee which commissioned the work – Gwenno Huws, Geraint Evans, Mai Marley and Dulyn Griffith.*

G W Y N F O R EVANS, Plaid Cymru's first member of parliament who died in 2005, now has a memorial in the town of his birth.

On Sunday, February 28, a bronze memorial was unveiled of the famous patriot in Barry Library, King's Square. The work of Llanuwchllyn sculptor John Meirion Morris, the plinth was designed and made by Ray Smith, who worked in the National History Museum at St Fagans. Euryn Ogwen Williams composed the wording of the inscription. (*See end of article).*

The work was commissioned by a small committee formed by Mrs Gwenno Huws, former deputy head at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, Barry – "It pained me to see that there was nothing whatsoever in Barry to remember one of the town's most well-known sons and one of Wales' leading statesmen.

"When I retired in July last year, I saw my chance to do something about it, so I set about establishing a fund to raise money for a fitting memorial to him.

"I'm very grateful to Mr Alcwyn Deiniol, Mr Geraint Evans, Mr Dulyn Griffith and Mrs Mai Marley for all their support," she added.

Enough money was raised at Mrs Huws' retirement to fund the work. In a farewell concert to her in July, disc jockey Aled Wyn Phillips and some of Wales' best-known artists – Y Tebot Piws, Heather Jones, Sioned Mair, Grug, Elen Rhys and Brigyn – gave their time, free of charge, to raise funds.

Sunday's ceremony was conducted by Mr Dulyn Griffith, head teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc.

The memorial was officially unveiled by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, President of the National Assembly for Wales, who said:

"As a recent arrival in the Vale of Glamorgan, I am particularly honoured to be able to unveil this memorial, a bust of Gwynfor Evans, here in Barry, the town where he was born and brought up.

"Although he was a parliamentary candidate in Meirionnydd, and a number of other constituencies before succeeding in Carmarthen, he never lost sight of his vision of a united Wales where different areas and communities all contribute to the life of the nation – with the Welsh language, in the form of effective bilingualism, as a resource belonging to us all.

"It is wonderful that Barry has seen extremely successful Welsh medium schools established. No doubt the lively and varied commercial and social life of Barry influenced Gwynfor's classless view of society and his strong principles of equality."

The memorial was received on behalf of the residents of Barry by Coun Gordon Kemp, leader of the Vale Council.

The guest speaker was Professor Gareth Williams of the University of Glamorgan, who said: "I'm honoured to say that I, like Gwynfor, am from Barry and am a product of Barry County School."

The ceremony closed with musical performances by the choir of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, accompanied by Mrs Delwen Williams on the piano and the soloist was Mrs Menna Roberts.

The bilingual inscription by Euryn Owgwen Williams, which appears under the bust, reads:

Asbri'r gwladgarwr
a'i ysbryd
yw'n rhodd ni o'r
Barri i'r byd.

His inspiration, like our banner unfurled,
is a gift from Barry to Wales and the world.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE in brief

Cancer coffee morning

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge with Llanblethian will be holding their monthly coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Saturday, March 6 and invite everyone to join them in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, for tea/coffee and cake between 10.30am-1pm. Admission £2.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery at 115 High Street, Barry, on Saturday, March 6 from 10am-12noon. No appointment necessary.

Please call the constituency office on 01446 740981 for more information.

Ward surgery

VALE councillors for the Gibbonsdown ward, Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson, will be holding a street surgery in the Monmouth Way/Slade Road/Orchard Rise area on Saturday, March 6, between 4pm-5pm.

Art and family

THREE Penarth artists will stage an exhibition at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay on March 6-14, as part of the Women's Arts Association's celebration of International Women's Day.

Using her garden as a backdrop, Pauline Williams' acrylic paintings depict her children at different ages of their lives.

Shirley Anne Owen recalls watching her sons grow up to adulthood by making a large composite work based on family photographs.

Kay Keogh relates her work to a French poem by Guillaume Apollinaire. She devises her paintings in a narrative storyboard about motherhood.

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, March 7 at 2.30pm Pobl y Cwm walk at St Peter's Church, Peterston super Ely (ST 083764).

Tuesday, March 9, 1.30pm walk at Barry Island headland walk.

Start at the first aid post, Barry Island promenade.

Wednesday, March 17 at 1.30pm, Plas Llanmihangel Valley starting opposite.

Please note: walkers may encounter stiles, uneven surfaces, steep sections or soft, wet ground on some walks.

MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday 14th March
ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'Be good and kind to mother...'

CELEBRATING Mother's Day has become one of our most cherished occasions.

After all, fathers tend to get a little uncomfortable if too much fuss is made. (Although a bottle of malt whisky is still a pretty safe bet).

However, the great thing about mums is that they really appreciate it when their children make a special effort.

That's why any son or daughter should give serious thought to treating mum at one of the area's many and varied restaurants to make a real occasion of that special day.

Go on, spoil her (and yourself).

PI

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Sunday 14th March

MOTHER'S DAY

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Sunday 14th March

A reminder for Mother's Day

Pippa continues supplying special chocolates for all occasions...

Many of you know Cocoa & Co, the quaint little chocolate shop tucked away in Verity's Court. It was first opened in 2000 by Mary Roberts, who has recently retired. New owner and long-term employee, Philippa Tuckey, values the loyalty of existing customers and extends a warm welcome to all new visitors. The shop caters for diabetic, gluten and dairy free customers. In this hidden gem is a variety of freshly ground coffees, delicious ice creams and a range of wedding favours. The shop will continue to stock existing products along with **new exciting treats including chocolates for Mother's Day and Easter.**

Veritys Court, Cowbridge t: 01446 775729
e: info@cocoandco.co.uk www.cocoandco.co.uk

MOTHERS' DAY falls on Sunday, March 14 this year – so with this reminder there's no excuse not to make a fuss of the person who has invested more emotion into your life than anyone else!

Don't wake up on Mother's Day and think: "I wish I'd booked that meal out today," only to discover that everywhere is already booked solid.

Of course, you don't have to take Mum out specifically for a Sunday meal, but mothers do appreciate a day out with their sons or daughters, rather than a box of chocolates brought to the house.

So make it a day to remember – Mum won't be around forever!

DIANA
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Diva's Hair Design, high quality hair design

DIVA's Hair Designs opened two and a half years ago in the busy Cwm Talwg area of Barry.

Diva's can offer a range of services covering all aspects of high quality colouring techniques.

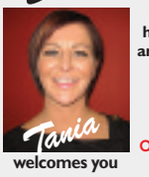
Diva's can boast of a staff with exceptional experience and training.

Tania, the salon manager, has a wealth of experience, with specific training in London and is well known for her earlier career in many local Barry salons.

Diva's excellent product ranges include L'Oreal, Tigi Bad Head and Matrix.

Book your appointment. Contact Tania on 01446 400535 where a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Diva's Hair Design



Tania welcomes you

Covering all aspects of high quality hairdressing and colouring techniques.

£5 off any service
only with this advert

7 Plas Cleddau, Cwm Talwg. **Tel. 01446 400535**

Cardiff antique fair returns on Mothering Sunday

THE Antiques and Collectors Fair is returning to a popular venue on Mothering Sunday, March 14 – The Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

The Copthorne proved an excellent host to the fair in the 1990s, and this year it will be held there from 10am-4.30pm.

There will be specialist dealers, antique dolls, Swansea and Nantgarw China, stamps and postcards, Sally Tuffin pieces, among them a rare Black Tiger Vase limited edition of 10 (this being No 4), militaria, Victoriana, Ditchfield Glass, plus other collectable glass, furniture, paintings and prints, clocks and books, jewellery, many excellent stands, something for everyone!

So browse the fair, and even book a spin in a vintage Rolls Royce, courtesy of Henrietta Cars.

Antique & Collectors Fair
at the **Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff**
Mothering Sunday, March 14th
10.00am - 4.30pm
Vintage Dolls, China, Militaria, Victoriana, Furniture, Art, Books, Glass and Lots more.
Telephone: 02920 512349

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Mother's Day
Sunday 14th March
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Sunday, 14th March
@ CAFE CONTINENTAL

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Served 12 noon - 4.00pm
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3 Courses £18.45 Children 6-12 years Half Price, Under-5 years free of charge

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Mothers' Day
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New beauty Salon now open!
Ceri Parsons would like to announce the opening of The Beauty Bar. Situated on Eglwys Brewis Road adjacent to The Carpenters Arms pub. Ceri who has previously worked in Bodywise, Barry and Mirror Image, Llantwit Major, has 9 years experience and offers a wide range of treatments with relaxing therapy and spray tan rooms.

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www.mellisapowell.co.uk

Tonne of litter is collected after Five-Mile Lane 'blitz'

A TONNE of litter has been removed during a cleaning 'blitz' on one of the Vale's major roads, the borough council reports.

"A 'Magnificent Seven' team from the council's waste management and cleansing division collected the litter – approximately 80 orange bags – during a full day stint along Five-Mile Lane," a spokesperson said.

As well as food wrappers and general litter, the team removed items such as a garden table and chairs and fridge freezers.

The Vale Council cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox, said:

"As usual, the team has done a thorough job and worked exceptionally hard, but there really is no excuse for littering.

"It is sheer laziness that people feel it is easier to throw things out of their vehicle window rather than take it home to be recycled, composted or binned."

ABOVE:
Litter picking team members are pictured at Five-Mile Lane with Coun Geoff Cox (left) and cleansing superintendent Tony Spear.

Tories deny Labour claims that they don't want Defence College

ALUN CAIRNS, Conservative candidate for the Vale, has refuted a fresh Labour claim that a future Tory government would jeopardise thousands of jobs earmarked for the Defence College at St Athan.

Alana Davies, his Labour opponent, claimed at the Welsh Labour Party conference that the Conservative Party does not want to see the construction of the £12 billion Defence Technical College (DTC) because of knock-on affects on military sites in eight Tory constituencies in England.

She said the construction of the college would impact on sites at Arborfield, Bordon, Blandford, HMS Collingwood, Cosford, RAF Cranwell, RAF Digby and HMS Sultan.

She added that the areas are all represented by Conservative MPs including John Redwood, Douglas Hogg QC and James Arbuthnot MP - Chair of the Commons' Defence Select Committee.

Ms Davies said: "Make no mistake about it, it would be absolutely disastrous if the Conservatives got into power and pulled the plug on the Defence Technical College after all the hard work that has gone into this.

"David Cameron has repeatedly declined to unequivocally support the St Athan project and only commits to a Strategic Defence Review.

"What good is that going to do the people of the Vale?

"I believe the main reason why he won't back it is because he knows it is unpopular with several of his Conservative colleagues who are not happy with work being transferred from their constituencies to south Wales.

"I urge the Conservatives to commit to this record investment, instead of half-hearted statements from David Cameron and Cheryl Gillan," Ms Davies concluded.

But Alun Cairns rebutted the claims and pointed out that in The GEM on January 14, he had said David Cameron was on the record as saying that everyone wanted the DTC to go ahead.

Commenting on the Labour claim, Mr Cairns said:

"This is completely untrue and my Labour opponent knows it. They are being dishonest and are treating people like fools.

"The GEM recently published our clear position in support of the Defence Academy.

"David Cameron is on record as having said that we are in favour in principle and in practice.

"I have been working closely with Metrix to ensure that they respond to local issues in the interests of the immediate communities.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00156/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Renewal of application 2005/00104/FUL for new dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: 3, Bridgeman Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00161/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension and alterations to dwelling as amendments to 2007/00137/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Rectory, Bonvilston
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Bonvilston

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00164/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conservatory to front
Location:/Lleoliad: Greystones, Flemingston
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Flemingston

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00140/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension to barn
Location:/Lleoliad: Rear of Willow Cottage, Treoes

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00147/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of former hotel and construction of 17 two bedroom apartments and community facility including car parking and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Sea Lawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore By Sea

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS, 1999

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as Local Planning Authority, has determined the following application(s), having taken into account the information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment accompanying the application(s):

2009/00021/FUL — Land accessed off of Atlantic Way within Barry Docks, Barry

Change of use from B2 - General Industrial Use to Sui Generis - Waste Use which would include operational development in the form of the construction of a gasification waste to energy plant for non-hazardous waste
Approved 23 December, 2009

2009/00500/OUT — Land at and adjoining MoD St. Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from the B4265 at Boverton in the west to Castleton Farm, St Athan, in the east, and from north of the runway and north of Castleton Road at St Athan in the south to land at the northern end of the MoD St Athan site at Picketston and up to Flemingston Road, St Athan, in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.
Development of a Defence Technical College and associated facilities and works, including 483 Service Families' Accommodation dwellings, military external and field training areas, the alteration and reconfiguration of St Athan golf course, a hotel, an energy centre, improved parking and servicing facilities for the existing spar shop on Eglwys Brewis Road, the provision of a new access road and other associated highway works and improvements, including a garage for Rose Cottage, and all associated ancillary building, sports, community, ecological mitigation and enhancement, engineering, landscaping, means of enclosure and other works.
Approved 1 December, 2009

2009/00501/OUT — Land at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park at St. Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from land adjacent to the B4265 at Boverton in the west to land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, St Athan in the east, and from the B4265 at Batslays in the south to land north of Boverton Brook in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry
Development at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park, including: the erection of new and replacement buildings, airfield operational facilities and structures; the provision of access roads, hard standings and other infrastructure; security fencing; landscape and ecological works; garage for Rose Cottage; all associated building and engineering works; and related highway improvements
Approved 1 December, 2009

2009/00934/FUL — Land at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major
Retrospective planning application to regularise past mineral extraction and associated operations
Approved 5 February, 2010

2009/00965/FUL — Hensol Castle, Miskin, Pendoylan
Proposed amendments to comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including conversion and extension of castle as hotel, conversion of ward blocks to residential use and restoration of walled garden
Approved 15 January, 2010

Documents and details of the decision, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision was based may be inspected free of charge in the Planning Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry. CF63 4RT during normal office hours.

Dated: 4 March, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 4 Mawrth, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Local quiz and walk will boost Kidney Wales

A SPECIAL evening is being held at the Park Hotel on Friday, March 12 to raise money for the Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life.

Gaynor Taylor told The GEM: "We're inviting people to join us at 7.30pm.

"We are holding a quiz night to boost the fundraising towards the Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life.

"This night was a really fun night last year and helped us exceed our goal of £2,000 for the 2009 Walk for Life.

"Our target this year is £2,500. People can come along and have a fun night and can collect their sponsorship form for the walk at the same time.

"This year's Barry Walk for Life is on Sunday, March 28, at 11.30am and registration starts at 11am."

The Taylor family organise the walk as an annual tribute to Mr John Taylor, Gaynor's husband, who died on the morning of the 2006 walk, and to his son Richard Taylor, whose organs were donated to other people after his tragic accidental death in 2004.

Gaynor added: "Kidney Wales has now started the Donor Card Scheme and played a large part in the instigation of the Organ Donor Register.

" I would encourage people to register."

'Give more help to small businesses' – Plaid AM urges

VALE-based Plaid AM Chris Franks has called for a Venture Capital Fund, led by the UK Treasury, to help small local firms.

"I am calling for a Venture Capital Fund by the UK Treasury to help small firms.

Welsh entrepreneurs are sometimes unable to turn their ideas into sustainable business opportunities because of a lack of sufficient venture capital funds in Wales."

In the Senedd, he called on the First Minister to discuss with Ministers in London setting up a Venture Capital Fund to help small local firms.

The South Wales Central AM added: "Plaid wants the business environment in Wales to be far more helpful for Welsh companies."

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold donor sessions in the area next month.

Old Pioneers Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, Tuesday, April 13, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm.

Telephone 0800 252266, or visit www.welshblood.org.uk

LATCH will benefit from Barry Lions' charity fashion show

BARRY Lions Club is holding a charity fashion show at the Mount Sorrel Hotel to raise funds for LATCH – the Welsh children's cancer charity.

The president of Barry Lions, Mrs Nanette Langford, told The GEM: "We wanted to support LATCH because it is a deserving charity that is not highlighted as much as some others.

"The show is being held on March 20 at 7pm, and will feature fashions by Julie T of Penarth.

"Both formal and casualware will be on display and there are 70 tickets available."

It is the first time Barry Lions have held a fashion show, but they have a good record in living up to the organisation's motto 'We serve' by responding to both both local and international causes.

LEFT: David and Nanette Langford.

Nanette's husband David, a former president of the local branch himself, said: "We recently held an ABBA night at the Old School in Sully for Haiti, which included a cabaret and meal, and raised £1,000."

During the LATCH evening, Sian Howell, a trustee of the charity, will give a talk on the charity's work.

Sian said: "My daughter Bethan, who died in 1988, has featured on the charity's posters and became the face of LATCH.

"I became involved with the charity because they were so good to us, and I could see the good they were doing for other people too."

LATCH aims to ease the burden for families at a particularly stressful time in their lives. In its early years, it was located in Llandough Hospital with bungalows provided to enable parents to stay overnight to be near their children.

In 2005, it relocated to the Children's Hospital for Wales and accommodation was once again arranged for parents, brothers and sisters to be able to remain close to loved ones.

Sian emphasised: "LATCH has no paid fundraisers, just an administration assistant in the hospital in Cardiff. All the money raised goes directly to help the children and families in need."

Julie T fashion shop in Penarth will be giving a 10 per cent discount to anyone who produces a ticket from the show.

For more information, telephone 0845 833 6742.

Howell's School students are on way to Oxbridge

STUDENTS at Howell's School Sixth Form College are celebrating a mass exodus to Oxbridge.

Piers Kennedy (18) will be heading to St Peter's College, Oxford, to read music, where he has also been awarded a choral scholarship.

Jasper Warner, who has a place to read philosophy, politics and economics at St Hilda's College, is currently taking a gap year.

He gained grade As last summer in history, maths and physics at A-Level and a distinction in the advanced extension award in history to add to his As in AS biology and critical thinking taken the previous year.

He represented Wales in the World Debating Championships in Athens, where he was ranked in the world's top 10 debaters, and he was also a member of a group of four students from Howell's selected to represent the UK at the Junior 8 summit in Tokyo which ran parallel to the G8 summit.

Back left to right: Rachel Patel, Ellen Brookes, Rachel Thomas, Joseph Thorne. Front from left: Piers Kennedy, Eleanor Richardson, Camille Ivinson, Anna Sambrook.

Others who have had offers from Oxford are Camille Ivinson (18), who will read law at St Hugh's College, Rachel Patel (17), who has a place at University College to read medicine, Anna Sambrook (17), who will study German at Trinity College and Joseph Thorne (17), who will head to Corpus Christi College to read English.

Successful applicants to Cambridge University are Ellen Brookes (18), who will study natural sciences at Sidney Sussex College, Eleanor Richardson (18), who has a place at Magdalene College to read classics and Rachel Thomas (18), who has been accepted at Murray Edwards College to study for a degree in medicine.

SULLY BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

The A team ladies with a combined age of more than 720 years and all still as sharp as the proverbial!

SULLY Bridge Club results for February 22 are as follows:

N/S – First, Pat Evans/Jayne Greatrex; Second, Brian Gardner/Pam Allen; Third, Roger Cradick/Derek Taylor.

E/W – First, Bunty Wiseman/Trish Tracy; Second, Anne Macdougal/Anne Hilary Jones; Third, Eileen Hughes/Tony Hall.

Wednesday, February 24: N/S – First, Pat Evans/Roger Cradick; Second, Betty Lewis/Trish Tracy; third, Ann Williams/Marilyn Jones.

E/W – First, Peter Blackwell/Tony Hall, Vaughan Shepherd/Brenda Shepherd; Third, Anne Johns/Eileen Hughes.

372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

First time fliers Grob their chance!

RECENTLY, Air Cadets Ryan Andrews and David Singleton of 372 (Barry) Squadron experienced the thrills and excitement of flying in the modern Grob Tutor aircraft at MoD St Athan for the first time.

Ryan and David both recently joined 372 Squadron and their feet have not touched the ground yet. Both cadets have gained their squadron marksman awards and are now looking forward to planned adventure training expeditions.

Both Ryan and David sat nervously alongside the pilot to experience the sensation of flying, and also the effects of g-forces on the body.

David not only enjoyed the flight, but also found out for himself how to fly the aircraft under the supervision of the pilot.

Afterwards he said: "Flying the aircraft was easier to control than I imagined. It was so cool, I can't wait for my next flight."

Several Cadets were also given an opportunity to see the world upside down, experiencing the thrills of stomach churning aerobatics!

The Cadets who flew were: David Singleton, Ryan Andrews, Marcus Cocks and Jermaine King.

Cadet David Singleton preparing for his first flight.

Ryan Andrews gives the thumbs up.

372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Telephone 01446 747734 or email 372@aircadets.org

JASON HORTON

NEWS FROM THE BARRIVALE BRIDGE

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, February 9. Club mixed pairs championship, session two:

First, Noelle Bond and Mark Roderick with 65.63 per cent. Second were Diana Kendrick and Dave Thomas (58.93). Third were Jane Brook and Mike Close (55.95).

Handicap winners were Diana Kendrick and Dave Thomas.

Club Mixed pairs championship result:

First, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond (62.31); second, Jane Brook and Mike Close (54.22); third, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas (51.38).

The mixed pairs handicap winners were Huw and Celia Thomas.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

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You can also enter by TEXT to BRO Radio on 82010 starting your message with BRO TROLLEY, including your name and DOB.
T&C's apply. Competition details available on request on 01446 240681 or on the website. Closing date for entries: midday Wednesday March 10th, late entries will not be included in the draw. Entrants must be 18 years or over.
The winner will need to be available on the evening of March 12th and the draw will take place midday March 10th on BRO radio 98.1fm.
Another great GEM competition in conjunction with bro radio 98.1fm & Waitrose

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BARRY

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Contact Beth Walden on 01446 772860, or mobile 07968 141268.

Happy Chinese New Year workshop at Art Central!

ABOVE:
Vale AM Jane Hutt pictured at the Chinese New Year workshop at Art Central, Barry.

A GREAT time was enjoyed by all those who took part in Wendy Chong's Chinese New Year workshop, where children made an impressive range of lanterns and decorations in Barry's Art Central at the library in King Square.

Vale AM Jane Hutt came to view the artwork and congratulated all those who had made these half term workshops so popular.

Wales Wedding Photography offer a professional service

WALES Wedding Photography covers the whole of south and west Wales.

A spokesman explained: "We are a new company, but our photographers have over 20 years' experience in professional photography and portraiture. they are supported by a dedicated backroom team of photoshop professionals to create the very best photographs.

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"Alternatively, we are more than happy to handle this for them at trade cost."

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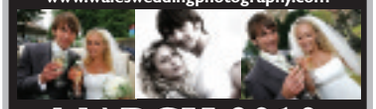

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VWBN award winner to be named at Senedd

JOIN us at the Oriel Gallery in the Senedd, Cardiff Bay to hear the name of the winner of the VWBN's first 'Spirit of Giving Business and Community Award' announced by the business network's patron Jane Hutt AM.

This is also an exclusive opportunity to view the beautiful and inspirational photographic collection 'Coast' by award winning fine art photographer and VWBN member Anna Proctor. For a glimpse of Anna's work, please visit her website: *www.annaproctorphotography.com*

Please note that this evening is open to VWBN members and their invited guests, by prior booking only. Please email members@vwbn.org.co.uk for more information.

For more information about the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, please visit www.vwbn.co.uk

Vale Women's Business Network

VWBN Award and Photography Exhibition 'Coast'
Wednesday, 17th March 2010

at The Oriel Gallery, The Senedd, Cardiff Bay, 6 – 8pm.

This evening is open to VWBN Members and their invited guests by prior booking only. Please email members@vwbn.org.uk for more information.

With many thanks to: Jane Hutt AM and Latent Light.com for sponsoring this event.

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Contact Sarah Jones at Bridgend-Cardiff based RTL Solicitors, telephone 01656 665850.

Be kind to your feet, at ACE–Feet in Motion

CARDIFF-based podiatry company, ACE–Feet in Motion are expanding their services into the Vale.

Their new store in Llantwit Major is offering an extensive range of comfort footwear from leading brands – such as Hotter, Scholl, Cosyfeet and Padders, as well as a full range of foot health services.

If you are unable to cut your toenails, then ACE–Feet in Motion will be providing this service by appointment for £10.

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TRAVOLTA'S PARISIAN ADVENTURE IS FUN, HUGELY DAFT AND TOTALLY OVER THE TOP!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

JOHN TRAVOLTA's career has had more ups and downs than the average Welsh Six Nations campaign: having blasted into public consciousness with the double whammy of *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever*, he proceeded to mix up his bigger roles with such underrated fare as *Urban Cowboy* and *Blow Out*.

However, as Travolta's profile increased, so did his inability to pick the right projects; the likes of the *Look Who's Talking* franchise attesting to this.

Quentin Tarantino gave his career a shot in the arm with *Pulp Fiction*, and since then Travolta has managed to make the good (*Face/Off*), the bad (*Domestic Disturbance*) and the downright ugly (*Battlefield Earth*) as his career pinballs from highs to lows.

His latest film, *From Paris With Love*, sees him play Charlie Wax, an unconventional American spy who is teamed with James Reece (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), an employee of the US ambassador's office, who has ambitions of becoming a top-level spy.

As the pair try to work their way up the ladder of a drugs ring, James finds he has to put his life into the hands of Charlie, whose unorthodox attitude may prove more hindrance than help...

The career trajectory of John Travolta could also be applied to Luc Besson. Once one of cinema's most visionary directors, with the likes of *The Big Blue*, *Nikita* and *Leon* on his CV, he has spent the majority of the ten years or so writing and producing films of questionable quality, from the daftly enjoyable *Taxi* franchise to the weak *Unleashed*.

His most notable recent success, however, was with the guiltily superb *Taken*, and he teams up with that film's director, Pierre Morel, here, with Besson on producing duties and also being the creator of the film's story.

However, those hoping for more of the same with *From Paris With Love* will only be slightly sated; for while the wanton violence and action is ramped up in a similar fashion, there is far less to grab onto here, making it a ludicrously fun, if ultimately redundant slice of cinema.

One that isn't lacking is John Travolta, whose performance here might not be the most nuanced and subtle of turns, but it certainly fits into the fizzy nature of the film.

Sporting a bald head and a goatee beard, he reins in the more OTT tics of his character in *The Taking of Pelham 123*, and instead delivers a high-octane turn, low on subtlety, but big on dominating the screen.

Travolta's turn is big, with little in the way of 'quiet moments' that offer any depth to the character. When we first meet him, he is berating customs officials with wildly colourful language, and when we leave him, he is more or less the same character; there are no life lessons to be learned here.

Travolta, though, looks like he's having a whale of a time with the character, and that certainly is conveyed on screen, with the actor looking enthused and invigorated.

The same can't quite be said of Jonathan Rhys Meyers, who at least keeps up with Travolta while having little of his co-star's impact.

The actor is saddled with by far the duller role, and given that his performances often lack any palpable charisma, he at least offers a turn that more than matches that on the page and proves to be a superb foil to Travolta's wilder turn.

Director Pierre Morel certainly knows his way around an action set-piece, and *From Paris With Love* is littered with them, the shoot-outs and car chases not overly pushing the envelope but still executed with a wonderful dollop of chutzpah and style.

Certainly, the violence is ladled on thickly, but it is the norm for films of this type of genre. Indeed, come the final act's misplaced moralising on the importance of one life against a thousand, and whether violence begets violence, you are begging for a shoot-out to bring things back to excitement.

It is another assured outing for Morel following *Taken*, and will be interesting to see where he will be going from here, as he may be able to shoot bangs and crashes with aplomb; but when given a strong narrative hopefully he can maintain his focus, as this film has only the flimsiest of narrative premises.

While Luc Besson came up with the story, it was Adi Hasak who brought it to screen, and while he may have an inventive mind when it comes to the countless action moments, he doesn't waste much time on the story, with a plot twist that, though hardly telegraphed, isn't all that original either.

However, Hasak does deserve the tip of the hat for including a line for Travolta referencing a 'Royale with cheese', harking back to *Pulp Fiction* with a sly nod.

While not a cinematic highpoint (but was it ever going to be), *From Paris With Love* is still a hugely serviceable and enjoyable action film that is perfect 'leave-your-brain-at-the-door' fodder.

With a slight hint to further adventures for Charlie Wax, another trip to Paris wouldn't be so bad at all.

VERDICT - Hugely daft, incredibly over the top, yet shot through with enough high octane and enjoyment that it makes for an entertaining viewing. John Travolta's scenery-chewing spy gives the film a lively enough focal point, while Pierre Morel's way with a set-piece means that *From Paris With Love* is a film that you will forget about in the morning, but will be infinitely happier having taken in. *Enjoyable*.

CARYL IN DINAS

POPULAR Vale singer/songwriter Caryl Parry Jones will be performing at Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Friday, March 26 at 7.30pm.

The multi-talented singer is also well-known to viewers of S4C as an actress and was the Wales Children's Poet Laureate in 2007.

For tickets, telephone 029 2051 3274/029 2051 3046.

TORY SURGERY

DAVID MELDING, Conservative AM for South Wales Central Region, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, March 5 at 29 High Street, Barry, between 10am-11.30am.

No appointments are necessary and all are welcome to attend.

Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose

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Dean Scott - Vocalist (9pm)

Sunday 14th March
Mother's Day Traditional Sunday Roast plus Flamenco Guitar Player (12pm)

Saturday 20th March
Daz - Vocalist (9pm)

Saturday 27th March
Peter Sheriaden - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 2nd April
Darryl Wyn - Guitarist/Vocals (9pm)

Saturday 3rd April
Supernatural Sound - Band (9pm)
A crowd pleasing band

Sunday 4th April
Samantha Adams - Vocalist (9pm)
Superbly powerful voice, one not to miss

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, both in sound and lighting, and some changes to the menu with a NEW SPECIALS BOARD, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained? Mixing it up a bit more this year. As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some BANDS AND COMEDIANS plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday such as KARAOKE, THEME NIGHTS, BAND NIGHTS, COMEDY NIGHTS, even HYPNOTISTS and DRAG ARTISTS, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value MENU FROM ONLY £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. SUNDAY LUNCH FROM £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. You will need to be quick to book a table for Mothers Day. For this special day we will have a FLAMENCO GUITAR PLAYER to entertain you whilst you dine.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston, it is a great place to find refreshment with a large CLIFF TOP PATIO AND OUTDOOR SEATING. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major. What else? A LARGE CAR PARK and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. Bookings are already being taken for the popular CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with great atmosphere!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 9th April
Karaoke (8pm)

Saturday 10th April
Christine Black - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 16th April
The Mopheads (9pm)
Three guitarists with an incredible stage presence

Saturday 17th April
Chris Martin - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 23rd April
James Alexander - Vocalist (9pm)
Cracking voice, great songlist

Saturday 24th April
Holly Wilson - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 30th April
Oblivious - Band (9pm)
Live & kicking rock covers band featuring Zak C

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Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and every day during school holidays.
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Out and About with The GEM

The Welsh Guards are on parade...

THE 1st Battalion Welsh Guards is taking part in parades across Wales this month, after returning to their base in Aldershot, from a six-month tour of Afghanistan.

The first parade in Cardiff today (March 4) also sees the launch of Armed Forces Day 2010, with the Welsh capital city having the privilege of being the national host.

On March 16, the Welsh Guards will parade through the centre of Bridgend.

In the summer of 2009, the Guards took part in some of the fiercest fighting Helmand has seen, in support of 19 Brigade during Operation Panther's Claw.

A spokesperson said: "The tour was not without sacrifice and their fallen comrades: Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe, Major Sean Burchill, Lieutenant Mark Evison, Lance Corporal Dane Elson, Lance Sergeant Tobie Fasfous, Private John Brackpool (attached to Welsh Guards) and Guardsman Christopher King (attached to Welsh Guards) will never be forgotten,"

The Welsh Guards' itinerary on March 16 in Bridgend:

● 12.30pm step off at Recreation Centre, Angel Street to Civic Centre, The Rhiw, Queen Street, Caroline Street, Adare Street, Market Street, Queen Street, The Rhiw, Angel Street to Recreation Centre.

● 12.50pm Salute Point – Barclays Bank Queens Street.

● 1.15pm Finish Point – Recreation Centre.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 607.

● **£2000:** 626038.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:**351651; 837081; 564912; 317931; 515290; 333361; 702257; 843475; 511225; 401780; 477279; 122770; 556349; 566451; 298061; 383559; 341590; 771724; 671567; 270604.

● **£5:** 152324; 225210; 349981; 204991; 838625; 376466; 118702; 834424; 329883; 307557; 669232; 296038; 151237; 269831; 256164; 906884; 667626; 133917; 613030; 783597; 798299; 239096; 719566; 214256; 151435; 576430; 562977; 272737; 706849; 423464; 309933; 735471; 783543; 985350; 376021; 645633; 558995; 267330; 549312; 208429; 613374; 262615; 666830; 415136; 879509; 376607; 176756; 353073; 115647; 793668; 440054; 108799; 507853; 389962; 819789; 309902; 659842; 169025; 263858; 206451.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Win Girlguiding stamps in a great competition

GUIDES and brownies across Wales are celebrating 100 years of Girl Guiding by giving their stamp of approval to Royal Mail's philatelic tribute.

Young girls who attend weekly meetings of the movement in venues across Wales, have been helping Royal Mail launch the latest set of commemorative stamps Girlguiding UK issued this month.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win themselves and their young Guiding families a set of the special stamp presentation packs to keep and cherish in our Royal Mail competition.

The stamps highlight the four age-groups of the organisation and celebrate the challenges, activities and games undertaken by youngsters at regular meetings held all over Wales and the rest of the UK.

All you have to do to enter the competition is answer the following question: *How many years of Girlguiding are being celebrated?*

A 100 years; B 50 years; C 10 years?

Send you entries on a postcard, marked 'Girlguiding competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, March 12.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into – good luck!

Mayor's charity coffee morning

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's charity coffee morning on behalf of St John Council, is being held at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 9 from 10.30am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to the St John charity.

Your chance to win some fabulous books!

TO celebrate Give a Book Week and World Book Day today (March 4), the Glamorgan GEM is joining forces with the Welsh Books Council and giving four lucky readers a selection of free books!

Six Nations Songbook.

Give a Book Week, organised by the Welsh Books Council to celebrate World Book Day, aims to encourage everyone across Wales to give a book as a gift to family, friends and colleagues, thus sharing the gift of reading.

We have two adult prizes and two children's prizes available. All you have to do, to enter is send your name, address and contact telephone number along with which prize you wish to be considered for – adult or children's – as well as stating if you would like English or Welsh-language books.

Send your entries, marked 'Book Day Competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

The closing date is March 12, the judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Good luck!

HISTORY TALK

THE Dinas Powys History Society will meet on March 9 in the Kynance Church Hall at 7.30pm when Dr Jonathan Hicks will give a talk and show slides on Barry and the Second World War.

For further information, contact programme secretary, Jan Gray on 01446 701273.

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On your marks for the Drovers' Run

ENTRIES are being sought for the Pencoed triathlon annual Drovers' Run on Sunday, March 14.

The challenging six-mile hill run starts from the Eagle pub in Brynna, past the wind farm and back.

Enter online at www.pencoedtri.org or contact Mike Hughes on 07800886183.

The Pencoed triathlon includes a six mile run.

Discover the performer in you, no matter what your age!

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Singing has been clinically proven to ease symptoms of depression and anxiety; it helps build confidence, improves your posture, and improves general well being. **Come and join us every Mon 11am -12.30pm @ The Little Shop of Calm, 1 Westgate, Cowbridge. An evening Feel Good & Sing course will be starting Thu 7pm-8.30pm from 1st April course cost £65 or £8.50 per session.**

We also offer **Young Performers** which is aimed at 7-16 year olds who want to improve their singing and performance skills. Over the 10 weeks we will cover various songs, including songs from Glee, harmonies, solo's, dance, and drama. Come and join us **every Tuesday 4.30pm-6pm @The Little Shop of Clam, 1 Westgate. Cowbridge. Course fee's £65 for 10 weeks or £8.50 per session.**

For more info e-mail contact@liannemorgan.co.uk or visit www.stagecamp.co.uk

A Cowbridge Physic Garden Event
Gardeners' Question Time
in the St Quentin's Suite *at the* Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, Thursday, March 18th at 7.30pm

HERBAL MEDICINES & GARDEN PLANTS
**Is black spot the blight of your life?*
**Do your tomatoes give you the pip?*
**Are your runner beans slower than you thought?*
**Are herbal medicines a cornucopia or a lottery?*
All these questions,and many more, will be solved for you.
Join us for an evening of horticultural fun and fascination.
Chairman: Dan Clayton-Jones with a panel of experts
Tickets £5 per person (pay at the door)
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For pre-booked tickets phone: 01446 774030 or book on-line
All proceeds for the Physic Garden which relies wholly on public support for its livelihood
Church Street, COWBRIDGE, Vale of Glamorgan
www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

WHATS ON AT

The Big Chris Barber Band
Saturday 20 March @ 7.30pm
The man is a legend. Celebrating 60 years as the great British trombonist and bandleader with over 10,000 concerts, Chris Barber has been a prodigy of the jazz world since the early 1950s and *"can't stop now"!*
From his roots in New Orleans to the early music of Duke Ellington and Miles Davis, Chris Barber leads his fabulous 11-piece band in a concert of superb traditional jazz and blues together with swing and ragtime.
This concert promises a superb, highly memorable evening in the magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats Castle. **Tickets: £24 & £22.50**

Other highlights for Spring/Summer!
Tickets now on sale for: **Beyond The Border Wales International Storytelling Festival** - Fri 2 - Sun 4 July. ■ **Shakespeare's Globe Touring Present "Comedy of Errors"** on Sun 29 August @ 6.30pm. **Tickets: £16 & £14.50**

Cinema for Spring
Time Travellers Wife (PG) 107 mins. Eric Bana, Rachel McAdams, Arliss Howard. Tues 9 March, Wed 10 March 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Dorian Gray** (15) 112 mins. Colin Firth, Emilia Fox. Tues 16 March, Wed 17 March 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Amelia** (PG) 111 mins. Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, Christopher Eccleston, Ewan McGregor. Tuesday 13 April, Wed 14 April. 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Bright Star** (PG) 119 mins. Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish, Kerry Fox, Paul Schneider. Tues 27 April, Wed 28 April. 1.30pm, 7.30pm.

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BRYNCETHIN JUNIOR AND MINI RUGBY ROUND-UP

THE CLUB'S PRE-MATCH TRIBUTE TO TRUE STALWART MEMBER, DAI

BRYNCETHIN under-8s travelled to The Liberty Stadium to play Valley Ravens under-8s during the half-time interval at the Ospreys v Connacht fixture.

Fittingly, the match result was shared, as the youngsters produced a thoroughly entertaining contest, conducted at a frenetic pace.

The scoring was opened by Bryncethin straight from the kick-off, as Rhys Williams crossed unopposed after supporting the runs of Rhys Cawley and Billy Sinclair, but Valley Ravens immediately hit back.

With the game continuing at lightning speed, Shea Francis received the ball deep in his own half and darted through the onrushing defensive line; Jake Whitefield collected the wide pass and sprinted down the touchline to score in the corner.

However, the Valley Ravens equalised again with a well worked try. Ifan Hunnam then gathered the ball in space and raced around the remaining defenders to reclaim the lead.

With determined defensive work, Bryncethin immediately turned possession over and launched another attacking move through Thomas Bassett. Superb running and impressive handling involving Rhys Cawley and Miles Blakeman resulted in Rhys Williams gathering the ball to cross the try line for a second time.

This try seemed to inspire the Valley Ravens team, as they struck back to run in two unanswered tries and draw level once again.

Match day squad: Thomas Bassett, Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Shea Francis, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Ben Lewis, Hollie Morgan, Josh Nuth, Billy Sinclair, Jake Whitefield, Rhys Williams.

Final score: **Valley Ravens 4, Bryncethin 4.**

Under-13s

A squad of 17 lads travelled to Kenfig Hill and took part in a great game of rugby.

The first half was dominated by the powerful Mules pack. This dominance took them to a 24-10 half-time score, the two Cherry and Whites tries coming from Dan Lockyer and James Morgan.

The second half started with roles reversed, the Bryncethin pack coming to the ascendancy, winning more and more ball and allowing their backs to get into their stride. This worked to great effect and resulted in Callum Matthews (1) and Dan Lockyer (2) scoring from long range, all converted by Ryan Richards.

This put the Cherry and Whites into the lead for the first time with 3 minutes to go.

In a tense finale, the Mules threw everything at Bryn and got their just rewards, scoring a converted try to bring the scores back to 31-31. Man-of-the-match: Harrison Read.

Final score: **Kenfig Hill 31 vs Bryncethin 31.**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 CLUB'S TRIBUTE

IT was with heavy hearts that Bryncethin travelled up the Garw Valley following the sad death of Dai Napper through illness.

Dai was a staunch supporter of all things Bryncethin and was a regular spectator both home and away. Even though he had grandchildren playing for the mini rugby section he was always fair and fulsome in his praise of any youngster who played rugby in the proper manner.

Many thanks to the Garw officials who allowed a minute's silence to take place before the matches.

RIP Dai Napper – loved by many, missed by us all.

Under-8s

Bryncethin travelled away to the Garw Valley to play the 'All Blacks'. We were all looking forward to a good open game and we were not disappointed.

The away side started in a positive manner with some direct running from Mike Gillette and Shea Francis, and from this Billy Sinclair raced through and scored the first try.

The 'All Blacks' responded immediately with a try from direct running of their own. This was the tale of the first half, with some good tagging from Josh Nuth and Jake Whitefield. Rhys Williams went through the Garw defence to score, but the home side scored straight away.

As the first half carried on at a frantic pace, Ifan Hunnam picked the ball up on half way and outpaced the defence to score the first of his three tries.

As before, the home side scored from the kick-off, but there was just enough time for Morgan Hughes to launch an attack with a pass out to Billy Sinclair, who ran through to score his second try and at half-time the score was a close 4-5.

The Garw scored first, but with roles reversed it was Bryncethin's turn to reply quickly through Ifan Hunnam.

As the half continued, there were superb defensive displays from Hollie Morgan, Miles Blakeman and Ben Lewis. A pass from Thomas Basset enabled Rhys Cawley to score his first try, but it was Bryncethin who finished the game the stronger, with Ifan Hunnam and Rhys Cawley both scoring to make the score 6-8 at the whistle.

It was Billy Sinclair who showed a captain's performance with great tagging in defence and two good tries.

Team: Billy Sinclair, Thomas Bassett, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Shea Francis, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Ben Lewis, Josh Nuth, Hollie Morgan, Jake Whitefield, Rhys Williams.

Final score: **Garw 6 Bryncethin 8.**

Under-9s

Bryncethin under-9s started slowly with the Garw scoring a very smart opener.

Bryncethin started to find some rhythm and following strong running by Aaron Thomas, Tobias Hunt and Ethan Hopkins, captain for the day Josh Napper made a blindside dart to level the scores.

In an end-to-end first half there was plenty to admire from both teams with strong showings from Davis Pilkington, Kieran Dixon, Rhys Davies and Dylan Evans for Bryncethin. Solid defence from Bryncethin allowed Daniel Osarigie to streak clear of the defence to take the lead. Not to be outdone, the Garw fought back to score a further two first half tries to regain the lead again.

Following further good work by the players, another opportunity was created that Josh Napper again finished off to draw the teams level at the end of a breathless half.

The second half was a much tighter affair with both defences tightening up. Jack Thomas and Finlay Mullens showed great commitment in the tight and numerous tackles, including one from Luke Board, stopped the Garw in their tracks.

It was left to Daniel Osarigie to again show his pace to put Bryncethin ahead again despite some gallant defensive efforts from the home team.

With time running out, Garw showed great skills to create space for the final score of the match. An excellent performance from both sides with a draw the correct result.

Man-of-the-match: Grit, determination and two excellent tries – Josh Napper took the award. Dai would be proud.

Match day squad: Josh Napper (captain), Dylan Evans, Kieran Dixon, Davis Pilkington, Tobias Hunt, Rhys Davies, Aaron Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Ethan Hopkins, Jack Thomas Daniel Osarigie and Luke Board.

Under-10s

Bryncethin started well from the kick-off with some good interplay between forwards and backs. Only relentless and brave tackling from the Garw stopped Bryncethin opening the scoring early.

With some good counter attacking and quick hands, the ball was given to Emyr Watkins who dodged and weaved his way through for the opening try, following some good forward work from Ryan Lovell, Ryan Blake, Morgan Tarr, Aaron Jones and Owen Hart.

The Garw were trying hard to spread the ball and break the Bryncethin defence but they came up against an unforgiving Bryncethin back line. Leading the strong defence was Iwan Veasey, Dafydd Evans with try saving tackles from Emyr Hunnam and Callum Francis.

Try scorers: Dafydd Evans, Emyr Watkins and Iwan Veasey. Man-of-the-match - Gethyn Napper.

Final score: **Garw 3 Bryncethin 4.**

Under-13s

Bryncethin, with seven of their squad missing, again had 16 devoted players turn out for this bruising encounter with Maesteg Welsh.

The game started quite well for Bryncethin as they tackled everything that came at them, but Maesteg had more power and drive at the ruck. They drove around the fringes very well and were assured with ball in hand, using a combination of driving and running to score 22 unanswered first half points.

Unfortunately for Bryncethin, they lost two influential players during the physical first half and had to finish three-quarters of the game with just 14 on the pitch.

Full credit must be given to the Cherry and Whites for the efforts that they put in when under intense pressure. At times, Bryn looked like they were coming back into the game, as they hit rucks and mauls harder and gained a few turnovers.

The second half saw Bryncethin leak a further five tries with the result 49-0. The Bryncethin coaches were pleased with phases of the Cherry and Whites play and hopefully the team will start to believe in themselves, in their own ability and can then play with confidence.

Man-of-the-match: Dan McIntyre.

Final score: **Maesteg Welsh 49 Bryncethin 0.**

Under-15s

The last time Bryncethin met Aberavon Green Stars early in the season in the Ospreys Cup, it was all one way traffic with Bryn being out played and out of their depth.

In the first 20 minutes, the Green Stars could not break the Bryn defence with outside centre Curtis Wade cutting off the Green Stars' back line.

Bryncethin were close to scoring with a desperate cover tackle denying Bryn taking the lead. Tom Lewis was then injured when he completed a try-saving tackle on his own line.

The Green Stars were now camped in the Bryn 22 and scored an unconverted try five minutes before half-time.

Bryncethin were unlucky not to draw level soon after, but a breakaway try saw the half-time score Bryncethin 0 Green Stars 12.

The second half started as the first half finished, with Bryn defences holding strong, but fitness was now telling and the Green Stars scored three tries in quick succession.

An excellent all round team display saw Tom Lewis, Derek Prewitt (man-of-the-match), Nathan Morgan, Curtis Wade and Corey Bater give outstanding performances.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr M Thomas – **Milnholm, Island Farm Road, Bridgend** – new rear and side domestic extension with detached garden shed and storage.

Bridgend County Borough – **land off Tondu Road, Bridgend** – siting of shipping container to supplement the existing containers for storage.

Mr R Hopkins – **Ballas Farm, Heol y Sheet, Stormy Down, Pyle** – lawful development certificate for retention of stable not constructed in accord with approved plans.

BCBC Youth Service – **Pencoed Tennis Courts, Felindre Road, Pencoed** – modular building measuring 15m x 12m to be used by young people to access educational and information services.

Mrs C Jones – **4 Nolton Street, Bridgend** – change of use from A1 retail shop to A3 café for sale of hot food including breakfasts, baguettes, rolls, coffee etc.

Mr K Hughes – **land at David Street, Ocean Farm, Blaengarw, Bridgend** – retrospective application for sheep shed extension and a hay shed extension.

Mr L Thomas – **16 Sker Walk, Porthcawl** – single storey extension to side and rear of property to comprise kitchen, dining area, study and shower room.

Mr J Cooke – **22 Newbridge Gardens, Bridgend** – re-design of roof approved under consent P/09/729/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Hier – **10 Old Church Close, South Cornelly** – single storey side extension for use as a dining room.

Anchormill Homes Limited – **land at Duffryn Oaks (Phase 3), Hendre Road, Pencoed** – replacement of house type to plot 16.

Mr S Midgley – **6 Jenkin Street, Bridgend** – demolish and replace garage.

Mr D Morgan – **Bowls Pavilion site off Waun Fach Terrace, Nantymoel, Bridgend** – construct boxing club on site of disused bowls pavilion, also to be used for community functions.

Tudor Properties – **land adjacent 46 Pond Mawr, Maesteg** – four bedroom dormer bungalow and two parking spaces.

Taylor Wimpey South Wales – **parcel R18, Parc Derwen, Coity, Bridgend** – re-plan of five residential units and associated garages and parking previously approved under P/08/613RES.

Mr A Wickham – **Three Horseshoes, Lamb Row, South Cornelly** – integration of two dormer windows to create attic room.

BCBC Communities Directorate – **Newbridge Fields extension off Bowham Avenue, Bridgend** – retrospective for change of use of public recreation land to winter sports pitch including installation of posts.

Mr P Green and Miss K Rees – **28 Graham Avenue, Penyfai, Bridgend** – rear single storey extension.

Mr Ogilivie – **25 Island Farm Close, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr R Webster – **former Gwalia site, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend** – three x three bedroom terraced dwelling units.

Mr Ash – **38 Dol Nant Dderwen, Broadlands, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr R Thornton – **24 Pant Poeth, Broadlands, Bridgend** – single storey rear extension.

Mrs V Rees – **Southcove, 2 Esplanade, Porthcawl** – single storey rear music studio extension and replacement of four window sashes.

TONDU UNDER-10s HANG ON FOR A HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY OVER HIRWAUN

WITH a depleted side Tondu under-10s made the journey over two mountains for their first visit to Hirwaun.

On the way they travelled through rain and snow, but once there the elements combined to give good conditions for a very enjoyable game.

Tondu started the match with a good kick and chase and put pressure on the home team.

The first score came early in the first half as Ryan Kershaw took his normal low stance and drove for the line, ably supported by his fellow forwards. No conversions were taken for this game.

The home side responded positively and put pressure back onto Tondu who, despite their best efforts, were unable to deny Hirwaun the score.

Jordan Morgan got Tondu back into the lead as, with a characteristic spin or two, he surged for the line after good approach work from his fellow backs. However, before the half could finish Hirwaun had drawn themselves level with a second try.

Half-time: Hirwaun 10 Tondu 10

The second half saw no changes for Tondu, who settled quickly back into the game and looked threatening whenever their backs had the ball.

The forwards also had a hunger for the ball, Ryan Kershaw being ever present at the breakdown and managing to turn ball over on many occasions. The try that nosed Tondu ahead again came to Josh Evans, who ran strongly through the defence to cross the line.

Tondu now changed to defending with the same skill as they attacked and a turnover came and they went on the attack. Good strength from the forwards saw Garryn Thomas cross the line but Hirwaun managed to hold him up.

Again, Tondu turned defence into attack and this time when Garryn Thomas received the ball there was no-one going to hold him up.

With the match drawing to a close, Tondu crossed the home try line again, but in the mêlée of bodies the ref was right not to award a try. This led to the first nervy period of play for Tondu as they desperately tried to hold back the Hirwaun attack.

The final minutes took an age, but with Hirwaun pressing in the Tondu 22, Ryan Kershaw managed another steal and the ball went to touch.

Full time: Hirwaun 10 Tondu 20

Tondu squad: Ben Merchant, Garryn Thomas, Taylor Lloyd, Morgan David, Iwan Knight, Jordan Morgan, Ryan Kershaw, Jack Llewellyn, Morgan-Owen Evans, Eleri Knight, Jamie Richards and Josh Evans.

Tondu Star of the Game went to Josh Evans. A brilliant all-round display from all the players secured a well deserved win for the Tondu under-10s. Keep it up the hard work everyone. A big thank you to Hirwaun, and especially the referee, who let the game run when needed and let the players know why he blew the whistle, with very good humour at all times.

JK

(SEE PAGE 21 FOR TONDU UNDER-13S MATCH REPORT)

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold donor sessions in the area next month.

Mobile Donation Clinic, Tesco Store Ltd, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, Monday, April 26, 11.15am-2pm and 3.30pm-7pm. (To attend this session it is advisable to make an appointment as these donors will take priority. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk)

Telephone 0800 252266 or visit web page www.welshblood.org.uk for further information.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RUGBY ROUND-UP

Athletic seconds are edged out by Bedwas

BRIDGEND Athletic seconds entertained a strong Bedwas second XV at Newbridge Fields.

The Athletic started the stronger and scored the opening try after just two minutes. Outside half Tom Cole ran the ball out of defence, linking and interpassing with wing Jon Nation and taking play close to the visitors line.

Quick ruck ball allowed prop Dai Price to crash through the defence to score. Tom Cole converted.

Athletic centre Lloyd Pemberton broke through the Bedwas defence and went on a sizzling run to score under the posts for Cole to convert.

Bedwas started to get back into the game and were rewarded with a penalty by outside half Kevin McCall. Further pressure resulted in Bedwas tries for Tom Byrne and Gary Hirst, to make the half-time score 14-13 to the Athletic.

The second half was a pulsating affair as both sides tried to gain the upper hand. McCall kicked a penalty to put the visitors in the lead. With 10 minutes remaining, Bedwas forced over for try by Stewart to take their lead to seven points.

The remainder of the match was all about the Athletic pressurising the Bedwas try line but the Bedwas defence held out securing a 21-14 victory.

Next Saturday (March 6) the Athletic meet Bridgend Sports seconds in the semi final of the District Cup.

Bridgend Athletic under-10s on top against Green Stars

UNLIKE the Welsh team, Bridgend Athletic under-10 Greens hit the ground running against Aberavon Green Stars and in the first minute, Caine Woolerton broke clear and sidestepped the last defender to put The Ath ahead.

From the restart, the forwards won the ball and fluent passing gave Will Mahoney some space to hare down the touchline to make it 10-0.

Yet again the ball was won at the breakdown, and some good interplay between forwards and backs put Drew Cording over for try number three.

The Green Stars then regrouped somewhat, and their backs passed beautifully to give their dangerous winger a few runs.

However, the defence held firm and forwards Jack Walker, Jac Bassett, Morgan Hughes, Matthew Hobby and Mitch Davies continued to secure good ball.

Half-backs Rhys Gamble and Caine used it well, giving outside-backs Chris Matthews, Drew and Will several opportunities to demonstrate their running skills, Will scoring a fine second try in the corner.

The half was rounded off when Morgan crashed over to make the half-time score 25-0.

A few changes were made at the interval and Rhys Delucia soon made his presence felt by crashing over for try number five.

Joe Grabham was weaving in and out of defenders and it wasn't long before Chris took advantage of a gap to shoot over in the corner.

Still The Ath came forward and from a ruck on the 22, Matthew Hobby sniped down the blind side to cross for his 50th try in Ath colours.

Green Stars hit back with a fine solo try before Mitch scored a well-deserved try to make the final score **Ath 45 Green Stars 5**.

Man-of-the-match went to the flying winger, Will Mahoney, who took his opportunities with great aplomb.

The Yellows continued in the same vein as The Greens and produced another fine advert for running rugby.

Iwan Osbourne and Morgan started in the backs and ran it back hard at the Aberavon team, setting up rucks which were won by good clearing out from forwards Ethan Bennett, Lewys Jenkins, Matthew Hibbert, Tom Zelinkski and Adam Murathodzic.

Angus Gregory entered the fray at centre, which was obviously too far away from the action for him and he was soon in the thick of things in the rucks and mauls.

The Ath had a few forwards guesting in the backs and whenever they were caught at a breakdown they seemed to migrate back to the pack.

Aberavon were forced back until, from a ruck near the line, Lewys stole around the blind side to open the scoring.

From the restart, Drew weaved his way downfield and from another breakdown, Tom forced his way over to make it 10-0 at half-time

Harry Provstgaard came in at scrum-half and, with a steady supply of ball, got the backs moving, allowing Nathan Willis, Dylan Parry, Joe and Chris to run at the Green Stars, with Joe, Nathan and Chris all touching down.

Dylan also had a few sorties down the line but was superbly covered by the Green Stars' wing who had another fine match.

As in the first match, Aberavon never gave up and played their part in an entertaining game which was enjoyed by both sets of supporters.

The final score was **Ath 25 Green Stars 0**.

Man-of-the-match went to Adam Murathodzic who had a fine all-round game, making some very good tackles to keep The Ath on the front foot.

LG

Ath Minis enjoy keen contests at Aberavon

BRIDGEND Athletic under-7s travelled to Aberavon Green Stars with a near full-strength squad, to play a mixed under-7s and under-8s side.

Green Stars scored first after seizing on a mistake, but the under-7s hit back straight away with some good passing from Lloyd Anthony and Ellis Penman, who got the ball wide to speedster Jordan Gittins, who squeezed into the corner for a fine try.

The Green Stars hit back with good tries and by half time had built up a 7-1 lead.

In the second half, there was good running by Fynn Mordecai, Ryley Howells and Euan Rees, and excellent tagging by Lloyd Anthony, Jordan Gittins and Lloyd Bennett, but a mistake let the Green Stars score again.

In the dying seconds, the Athletic broke through and got the ball to Lloyd Bennett, who crashed over for a good try.

Final core Ath 2, Green Stars 8.

Man of the match went to Lloyd Bennett.

Squad: Conner Lees, Ryley Howells, Ellis Penman, Euan Rees, Fynn Mordecai, Jordan Gittins, Lloyd Anthony, Lloyd Bennett, Rhys Thomas, Daniel Elias, Thomas Lewis.

RH

UNDER-8s

Aberavon had only 12 players, so the older boys played a similar team.

Both teams were cancelling each other out for much of the first half, but in the last couple of minutes, the Ath finally broke the Aberavon defence and Dan Leyshon crashed over in the corner.

Aberavon came straight back from the restart, raced up the field and a couple of good passes saw them even up the scores with a good try.

With time nearly up in the first half, Mason Edwards took the ball from deep in his own half and raced nearly the length of the field to score.

It was the Ath who scored two early tries in the second half, both by Isaac Watkins, to gain a little bit of breathing space.

Aberavon scored and, with both sides pressing hard, mistakes were inevitable and a loose pass by Aberavon saw the Ath pick up and drive deep into the home side's territory, where Mason Hughes popped up to take a fine pass and squeeze over in the corner.

Now the Ath had a little bit of breathing space, they seemed to relax and play some good rugby.

Two more tries followed from Mason Edwards and Oliver Raynor which put the game out of reach.

Aberavon battled on, getting another really good try with the last play of the game.

Both teams played some super rugby and Aberavon always make us at the Ath really welcome every time we visit them.

Final score: Ath 7, Aberavon Green Star 3.

Player of the match went to Isaac Watkins from a good solid performance.

AB

Porthcawl sports club's new mini-pitch is officially opened

ABOVE: It was a day of celebration last Saturday when Porthcawl Athletic Association (PAA) opened its new 'Scansis' pitch. The enclosed pitch has been erected at Lock's Lane and will be used mainly for mini-football and netball. Porthcawl's Mayor, Coun Rosemary Deere performed the opening ceremony and was welcomed by PAA officials, Keri Marlow, John Cullen, Morhin Owen, Tony Ulberini and architect John Nelson. The club also paid tribute to the help received from Bridgend County Borough Council officers, Mark Shephard, Gareth Evans and Chris Higginson.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN.

ABOVE: Porthcawl Mermaids netball team with coach Danielle Ulberini.

ABOVE: The Porthcawl Athletic under-7s football team, pictured with coaches Billy Crole and James Brown, will be using the pitch regularly.

The honours are even for under-13s against Penarth

TONDU under-13s played Penarth and just about shaded territory and possession during the first half, and were rewarded for their endeavours with the opening score.

The ball was distributed to Carwyn Dent, who ghosted his way down the wing to touch down under the posts. The try was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Tondu attempted to extend the lead, and Sam Matthews made several runs into opposition territory, as did Carwyn Dent and Ben Jones, but strong defence by Penarth kept the score line at 7-0.

Penarth dominated territory during the second period. Their taller forwards won an abundant supply of possession from the lineout and used the backs to stretch the Tondu defence.

Penarth's pressure was finally rewarded with an equalising try when a second row took a penalty quickly in the Tondu 22 and ran in under the posts for a converted try.

Tondu then put pressure on, and Ben Jones and Sam Matthews made strong runs into the Penarth 22.

Tondu narrowly missed a penalty kick at goal, which would have regained the lead. Penarth won a number of penalties in Tondu territory, but for all their efforts they could not breach the home defence.

Final score: Tondu 7, Penarth 7.

EJ

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In Memoriam
HEATHER TROTT
Eight years on 6th March
On Bossington mountain you loved so much. Always in my heart.We miss you so much.
John & Family
xxx

DOT MITCHELL

of Llantwit Major, passed away peacefully on February 26, after a short illness.

Dearly-loved mother of Ian, Lynda and Sue, and much-loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the private funeral home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral at Our Lady & St Illtyds RC Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday March 10 at 2pm, followed by service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm.

No flowers by request please, but donations may be made to the Ladies Church Guild (cheques by arrangement with funeral directors 01446 710096).

WATHAN
Johanna Emma Verena

Peacefully with her family beside her on Friday 26th February. Much loved by all who knew her and now greatly missed by relatives and friends at home and overseas. Funeral service in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 12th March at 10.15am. All friends welcome (please dress with colour). No flowers but donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care gratefully accepted.

STEPHEN
Raymond James

Suddenly on the 1st March 2010, Raymond of Boverton. Dearly loved husband of the late Megan and loving father to Debbie, Mark and Nicola.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral in St.Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 12th March 2010 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be given to Parkinson Disease Society or Stroke Association c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

GITSHAM
Irene May

Peacefully on February 24, Irene aged 98 years, formerly of Lake Road East, Roath Park and Byron Court, Llantwit Major.

Beloved wife of the late Stanley, very special and dearly-loved Mum to Sue, mother-in-law to Keith, grandma to Julia, Heather, Jonathan and the late Rob.

Greatly missed by her loving family and friends.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, until the service in the Briwnant Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium on Tuesday March 9 at 12pm.

Family flowers only please, if wished donations for Help the Aged may be given to the funeral director (cheques only please).

GREEN
Harry

Ex-Steward of Llantwit Major Social Club. Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on February 26, aged 90 years. Adored husband to the late Kit, much-loved father of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service on Friday March 12, 2010, at Thornhill Crematorium (Briwnant Chapel) at 9.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations to the Royal British Legion may be sent to the funeral home.

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Nan and Bampa xxx

ANYSHA PANESAR

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All our love, Mum, Dad, Toby and Dylan xxx

Birthdays

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KEVIN MILES

3rd March 2010
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Happy Birthday Grampy!
KEVIN MILES
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Happy Birthday
Dan MacIntyre
Congratulations on your 21st Birthday
with much love from Mum, Paul, Sarah, Nan & Grandad
XXXX

Retirement

PAUL TAYLOR
HAPPY RETIREMENT
To the best Bampi in the world. Now you are always home to play trains with me and I can crash yours (choo choo!)
I love your belly!
Lots of love DANIEL XXX

Paul Taylor
Happy retirement to the best Bampi ever!
Now you can spend even more time with me. Thank you for always being there for me.
Lots of love,
LUKE XXX

Paul Taylor
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Have a Healthy, Happy & Long Retirement. Now you can do all the jobs you had an excuse for (ha,ha). That includes all the jobs for the girls.
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Public Notices

Town and Country Planning
(General Development Procedure) Order 1995
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 6
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Proposed development at Flackwell Cottage, Tredodridge, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7UL.

Take notice that application is being made by Mr Martin Dodwell to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for planning permission for: Town & Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended). Change of use to residential curtilage and erection of boundary wall.
Application No. 2010/00030/FUL.
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Docks, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RT within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signed: Mr Martin Dodwell
Date 04/03/2010

Gareth Jones
are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £70,000 for
12 Beverley Street, Barry CF63 2HR
Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact
Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX. Tel: 01446 744812
before exchange of contracts.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
Tom Prichard Contracting Ltd
of **Castellau Fach Farm, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, RCT, CF72 8LP.**
is applying to change an existing licence as follows:
To keep an extra **3** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at the operating centre at:
Castellau Fach Farm, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, RCT, CF72 8LP
Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Welsh Traffic Area Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Notice to Members of Bridgend Lifesavers' Credit Union Limited
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Monday, 29th March 2010 at 7pm
at **Sarn Lifelong Learning and Community Centre, CF32 9SW**
Nomination forms and further details available by contacting
01656 724895
Martin Hughes, Secretary, on behalf of Board of Directors

Engagements

Mr and Mrs Gordon Sivyer
of Penllyne, Cowbridge
are pleased to announce the engagement on February 14, 2010 of their youngest son
Mr D.N. Sivyer
to
Miss A.O.C. Duckworth
daughter of
Mr and Mrs Charles Duckworth
of Putney Heath, London

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NEWS FROM LLANDOW KART CLUB

Damp start to season but Llandow Kart Club finds sunny window!

The opening round of Llandow Kart Club's 2010 season got off to a damp start, but eventually took place in largely sunny conditions.

A 61-strong entry was slightly disappointing, but was buoyed by the inclusion of 15 novices, with everyone enjoying three heats of eight laps, with a 12-lap final to round out proceedings.

No red flags meant that the action rattled along swiftly on a day notable for the first running of the Bambino class, under MSA permit.

The new category was given four six-minute sessions on a 500-metre loop within the usual circuit, but a familiar name emerged at the top of the pile as multiple champion Macaulay Austin's younger brother Alex became first 'winner' after improving his lap time by six seconds over the course of the day.

Cadet Honda appeared to be going the way of Yousuf Ashraf after he claimed victory in all three heats, but it was Llandow debutant Ari White who scraped through when it mattered to take the final, Ashraf came home a close second, with novice Daniel Thomas a fighting third.

The heat wins in Cadet Comer were shared equally between Harry Williams, Ryan Anderton and Harrison Thomas and the same trio completed the final podium, with Williams taking top spot by a kart length after a late pass on Anderton.

Jack Barber claimed Cadet WTP honours, while Lloyd Sealy dominated Cadet Honda with a double heat win and final victory. Daniel Jones was a close second in a five-kart grid, with defending champion Jamie Warren third.

Triple heat winner Sebastian Hutchinson looked to have swept the board after taking the Junior TKM 2-Stroke final on the road, but was later disqualified for writing the wrong engine number on his scrutineering card!

That handed the win to Sam Morgan, with Cadet Honda graduate Ross Chell taking second.

Zach Jones appeared as dominant as Hutchinson as he won heats two and three in Junior TKM 4-Stroke and then romped to victory in the final, as defending champion Andrew Davies spun.

Liam Jones was then running second, but had his kart quit under him, handing second back to Davies.

Macaulay Austin made it a family double after bouncing back from a first heat DNF to win races two and three, before taking the final from Cadet graduate James Williams.

Williams pushed hard throughout but almost saw his hard work undone as Morgan Rose closed in at the end.

A 10-strong Junior Rotax proved unable to deny defending champion Joshua Collings from taking two heat wins and the final, although Josh Gray was a close second in the main event, with Oliver Pidgley just behind in third.

Bridgestone-mounted Simon Evans won an epic Senior Honda encounter after overcoming defending champion and Dunlop runner, Gareth Lewis, after a sensational day of racing. Ferdinand Ball finished third.

Another big grid graced the Senior Rotax class, and proceeded to serve up a thrilling final as Chris Davis charged from third to first in the last two laps to claim the win from Matthew Dowers and long-time leader Shaun Fulford. Fulford and Dowers claimed heat wins, along with Ashley Davies.

The Rotax 177 class returned to Llandow after making its debut at last December's Celtic Championships, and saw Nigel Hughes assume control during the wettest conditions.

However, it was Wayne Stone who came through to claim the final, setting a new lap record in the process. Hughes was left to take second, with Richard Phillips third.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO
1. Alex Austin

CADET HONDA
1. Ari White (Project One)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Project One)
3. Daniel Thomas (Project One)

CADET COMER
1. Harry Williams (Zip)
2. Ryan Anderton (BRM)
3. Harrison Thomas (Zip)

CADET WTP
1. Jack Barber (BRM)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Lloyd Sealy (MS)
2. Daniel Jones (MS)
3. Jamie Warren (Jade)

JUNIOR TKM 2-STROKE
1. Sam Morgan (Intrepid)
2. Ross Chell (Tony)
3. Sebastian Hutchinson (Intrepid)

JUNIOR TKM 4-STROKE
1. Zach Jones (Jade)
2. Andrew Davies (Jade)
3. Liam Jones (Jade)

MINI MAX
1. Macaulay Austin (Maranello)
2. James Williams (Tony)
3. Morgan Rose (Tony)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Joshua Collings (CRG)
2. Josh Gray (CRG)
3. Oliver Pidgley (Alonso)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
3. Ferdinand Ball (MS)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Chris Davis (Storm)
2. Matthew Dowers (Tony)
3. Shaun Fulford (CRG)

SENIOR ROTAX 177
1. Wayne Stone (Tony)
2. Nigel Hughes (RedSpeed)
3. Richard Phillips (Tony)

Best Novice: James Johnson (Mini Max)

Driver of the Day: Louis Griffith-Walker (Cadet Comer)

CRAIG LLEWELLYN/ HENRY BEAUDETTE

Bright hat trick seals the Llantwit victory

by MARK ROSCOW

HAVING spent 20 minutes clearing the dog mess from the pitch Llantwit were able to get on with another home fixture, this time against the high flying Master Mariner.

The Mariners are currently second in the league and enjoying a good run of form but they were aware that the Major were also unbeaten for 10 games.

Major enjoyed the best of the early exchanges and Tracy, in one of his advanced positions, was close to opening the scoring but failed to hit the target. The opposition started to come more into the game and the central midfield had to work hard to keep on top.

The opening score came following a bizarre decision from the referee, who allowed a clear foul on Jennings to go, and then awarded a penalty much to the surprise of all the players.

The penalty was dispatched and the Major were one down.

The sprit within the team showed through and the equaliser came following good work from Mawhinney and Jennings with a deep cross being firmly headed into the net by Craig Bright.

It was clear that Tracy was struggling with an injury and had to leave the pitch with Gahan coming into the midfield following a reshuffle.

Good defensive work from Gethin Jennings kept honours even.

The experience of Shaw and Grafton was showing through as they both showed the class that sets them apart at this standard of football as they strolled through the game with ease.

The rest of the first half was quite even with Llantwit continuing to try and play the football and Steve Phillips working hard in the lone striker role.

Honours were even at half time and the second half began in much the same way as the first half had finished.

It was the home team that were playing the better football and the opposition keeper who was the busier as he made a number of fine saves to deny Phillips Major and Gahan.

Llantwit were to be rewarded for this fine free flowing football when Bright broke through and finished off in style to give Major a well deserved lead.

The Mariners came fighting back as they pressed for an equaliser and yet again it was to come via the referee who awarded them a second penalty again much to the surprise of the players and watching crowd.

Sheerer got hands to the penalty but was unable to stop it crossing the line.

The home team were determined to win the game and pressed forward looking for a winner.

It was that man Bright who was to once again provide the inspiration to finish off a great free flowing move involving Grafton Shaw and Major.

The pitch was taking its toll and Lansdowne and Dom White were introduced to provide some fresh legs. This proved a good decision as the home team were put under relentless pressure as the visitors pushed for the goal that would have secured a vital point as they press for leagues honours.

As the final whistle loomed it was the home side who broke away but the opportunity passed.

The final whistle did eventually come after a remarkable 51 minutes and the home side had earned a deserved victory.

The man of the match honours went to Craig Bright for his first hat trick in Llantwit colours.

Series of games at Llanishen for Cowbridge juniors gives great entertainment

UNDER-12s

Cowbridge under-12s played their best half of rugby this season during the first 30 minutes against Llanishen, going in 43 - nil up at half time.

The strength of the pack combined with the excellent link work of the back-row trio of Josh Brace, Luke John and Ben Jones provided quick ball for the Cowbridge backs to exploit ruthlessly.

Tries by elusive scrum half Tom Lucas (three) and Tom Trotman (three) put Cowbridge on top. The midfield of Matt Harper, Ashford Phillips and Hywel Williams defended superbly against their hefty midfield opponents, with Jonny Harvey and Rob David bravely having to go down on balls kicked through by the opposition when they realised that they could not run through the Cowbridge centres.

It was not a day solely for the backs with George Thomas (prop) and Jac Davies (second row) weighing in with tries after relentless drives from the pack, with Owain Thomas Jenkins, Tom Evans and Frazz McGann in powerful form.

Cowbridge made a number of changes in the second half with excellent performances from Cai Thomas Jenkins, Tom Whitehouse, Huw Bennett and Liam Sloane, with Harvey Stockwell scoring an excellent try from the wing to take the try tally for Cowbridge to nine.

The Llanishen team fought hard throughout the game and were rewarded with three second half tries.

A thoroughly enjoyable game and thanks to Llanishen RFC for their post match hospitality.

Final score: Llanishen 17 Cowbridge 55.

UNDER-11s

Cowbridge under-11s travelled to Llanishen and lost a close encounter by 28 – 12.

In heavy conditions, the Llanishen pack eventually began to dominate and, despite some brave tackling from Duncan Ace and James Holder, the home side scored the opening try.

Only an excellent try-saving tackle from centre Rhys Barnard prevented Llanishen scoring again on the stroke of half time.

The second half saw Cowbridge make a number of changes but this did not prevent Llanishen increasing their lead with another converted try.

The visitors fought back with some good inter passing between Osian John and Cai Evans leading to a fine try by back-row forward Dan Bunney, which was converted by Seán Davies.

However, the Llanishen backs were able to increase their lead with another well-taken try, and Cowbridge were unable to penetrate the opposition defence.

Eventually, a good run by Ollie Rampling set up a ruck from which Henry Jones scored to reduce the lead, giving Cowbridge a glimmer of hope.

These hopes were dashed in the final minute when Llanishen scored again to win a tough encounter and leave Cowbridge to rue only their second defeat of the season.

UNDER-10s

COWBRIDGE under-10s played Llanishen away, where they were expecting an extremely tough challenge.

It was the first game between the two sides since the epic district semi-final last season when Cowbridge triumphed by the narrowest of margins.

The early action saw Cowbridge attempting to win quick ball to release their talented back line, with Llanishen relying heavily on their much bigger pack.

As the game settled, the Cowbridge forwards began to dominate and, while securing their own ball, they fashioned several good turnovers. From a series of phases, the forwards sucked in the opposition back line and released Rhydian Williams to open the scoring.

From the restart, Evan Williams ran the ball deep into the Llanishen half. Once again, the superb front five of Max Lucas, Max Cunnington, Sam Corkill, Jac Roberts and Bevan Howells were on hand.

Ioan Lewis then released Bevan Howells to power over and double the lead. Cowbridge pressed to increase the lead and the ball was fed down the blind side for Rhydian Williams to outpace the defence before leaving the last defender grasping thin air with a sublime side step.

As the half time whistle blew Cowbridge had secured a 15-0 lead.

As expected, the second half would prove to be extremely difficult playing up the slope. Play saw Cowbridge camped in their own 22 early on and despite some superb defence Llanishen forced their way over to narrow the gap.

Llanishen then scored again to leave a very nervy last eight minutes. However, Cowbridge then dominated the play and forced Llanishen on to the back foot.

As time ran out the ball was kicked dead and Cowbridge had held on for a superb win.

Final score: Llanishen 10 Cowbridge 15.

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The development squad then took to the field to face their opponents. Llanishen kicked off with the advantage of the slope and dominated, once again using their bigger forwards to press deep in to the Cowbridge 22.

From a good drive they opened the scoring to lead 5 – 0, soon followed by another try.

At this point, heads could have dropped, but this Cowbridge outfit are made of stern stuff and so began a fine comeback.

Forwards Dan Taylor, Jake Griffiths, Cameron Roy, Tom Jose and William Davies were superb as they drove deep into opposition territory.

This gave the excellent Oliver Reynolds time to release Rhys Davies and the flying winger raced away to narrow the lead.

The forwards carried on from the end of the first half and, as a maul rumbled slowly towards the opposition line, Dan Taylor emerged with the ball and levelled the scores.

With their tails up, Cowbridge moved the ball through the back line and James Guard, Tom Coates and Angus James all made good ground, and Cameron Roy burst clear to touch down and take the lead for the first time.

From the restart, Llanishen levelled with an excellent score of their own. This would prove to be a temporary blip and, after superb work by all the forwards, Jake Griffiths capped a superb performance with a deserved try followed by one from Angus James to race in at the corner for a 25-15 lead.

Finally, from another turnover, Oliver Reynolds released Rhys Davies, who touched down for a wonderful solo effort. The final whistle blew with a final score of **Llanishen 15 Cowbridge 30.**

UNDER-7s

A squad of 12 under-7s made the trip to Llanishen for a round robin with the home side and Llandaf. As with the full Wales team, the boys seem intent on giving the opposition a good head start!

The first game was played against Llandaf and the boys gifted too much possession and made mistakes until they woke up, defended in a line and scored a couple of good tries. **Final score 4 - 2**.

The second game against the home side was a good exercise in tagging as the boys were given a minimal time with the ball and went down 7 - 0 to some fine individual tries. An extra game was played against Llandaff and the practice in tagging and defending in the previous game paid dividends as the final score was a creditable 0 -0 draw.

Squad:- Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins , Ellis Howell, Oliver Jarmaine, Aled Leitch , Dewi Lloyd, Charlie Lock.

ML

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

NEWS FROM BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, February 23.

First were Mike Close and Mick Green with 64.58 per cent, with Irene Thomas and Graham Jones (64.06) in second place.

Joint third were Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, and Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins with 52.60.

Irene and Graham won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

CAPTAIN GINO DRIVES IN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF FARMERS' GOLF SOCIETY

The new captain 'drives in' at Southerndown Golf Club.

ABOVE: Meirion Chestney, competition sponsor Glyn Watts-Jones, winner Clive Edwards and society captain Gino Cocco.

Gino Cocco and guest Gerry Davies.

Martyn and Carol David.

Lindsay and Mary Llewellyn.

Ray Howells, Griff Morgan and Keith James.

THE first meeting of the season for members of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held at Southerndown Golf Club, where 45 members and guests gathered to see the traditional 'captain's drive-in' by recently elected captain Gino Cocco.

Despite the added pressure of being surrounded by supportive colleagues, Gino hit the perfect shot up the fairway to a distance correctly guessed by Llantwit Major farmer Brian Jones, who collected the captain's prize.

With near-perfect playing conditions and a course in excellent condition, it was no surprise there was very little between the leading players, with scores on the back nine again proving the deciding factor.

Retired butcher Keith James with 33 points (17 on the back nine) secured fourth place, just ahead of Keith Wilding (14 on the back nine).

Andrew Thomas with 34 points (14 back nine) finished third, while Coun Raymond Thomas (17 back nine) took second place.

The overall winner, also with 34 points (17 on the back nine) was Colwinston farmer Clive Edwards, who collected the Glyn Watts-Jones Cup from the day's generous sponsor Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

This was Clive's first individual success since joining the society and it was pleasing to note the first winner of this competition was Clive's late father, Griff, who was successful in 1988.

Guest section

The guest section was won with 34 points by Meirion Chestney, who was also successful in winning the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive competition.

Barrie Melhuish finished runner-up with 31 points.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Bryan Wadham, president Geraint Davies, Keith James and society captain Gino Cocco.

Julian Kelly won his first prize of the year when correctly guessing 30 balls would spend the rest of their days covered in thick gorse to collect the Premier Turf sponsored prize, which resulted in £80 being raised for The Royal National Institute for The Blind.

Pleasing to report that temporary relief from the credit crunch was gained for Islwyn Rees, Gwyn Evans, John Caines, Neil McLean and Barrie Melhuish. All picked up £10 as a result of getting a 'two' on their card.

The society's annual dinner was held recently in the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend. *(See pictures above right).*

Congratulations to John and Janet Davies of Llantwit Major who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding.

John is a founder member of the society and was captain in 1992.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, at St Andrews Major Golf Club.

TMcC

Vale Schools take charge

WITH the sun shining, the Vale Schools took on their counterparts from Merthyr on a field that in places resembled the Somme.

In spite of the conditions, both sides tried to run the ball, but there were many handling errors by both sides.

The Vale forwards had the edge over the Merthyr pack and from a scrum on the 22, the ball was passed to Cai Evans. He made a break but was tackled and the ball was picked up by Joe Short who ran in for aa unconverted try.

The Vale forwards continued to dominate up front but bad handling and good tackling from Merthyr kept them at bay.

As the half drew to a close, Vale were awarded a penalty five metres out, and from a quick tap and go, Spencer Robinson managed to stretch out and score. The try was converted by Cai Evans, for a half-time score of 12-0 to the Vale.

On the restart,from a line-out on halfway, Joe Short took the ball and drove upfield. He was tackled on the 22, but laid the ball back for Owain Jenkins to pick up and drive as far as the five-metre line.

The ball was won by the forwards and passed along the line to Cai Evans who broke through to score.

Merthyr picked up their game for a while but good tackling from the Vale backs kept them at bay. It was inevitable that the Vale would score again, and from a ruck on the halfway line, Joe Short picked up and broke through to score his second.

From the kick-off, the Vale forwards went on a run that took them as far as the Merthyr five-metre line, and from the resulting ruck Mitchell Smyth picked up and drove over for the try.

The final score was 31-0 to the Vale.

The Vale would like to thank Merthyr for travelling for the game and thank the parents who provided the food.

STEVE JONES

School creates impression with gymnastics success!

YOUNG gymnasts from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg created quite an impression at the Cardiff and Vale gymnastics championships, with a string of impressive results.

The year-7 and 8 boys' team, and the year-9 and above girls' team were victorious, with the year-9 and above boys' team in second place, and the year-7 and 8 girls' team in third place.

Individual successes in their respective age categories came from Iwan Mepham (first), Ffion Byrne (second), Rhidian Mepham (third), and Elinor Lewis (second).

The gymnasts.

Flint's Chepstow double

RHYS FLINT from Kenfig Hill landed a double at Chepstow races last Saturday when winning on Crannaghmore Boy and Star Galaxy.

The latter is trained by Rhys's father John Flint. There was more local success when Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams scored with 14-1 outsider Oscar GoGo and Ogmore's Christian Williams won on Mister Quasimodo.

BRIAN LEE

Llantwit Major swimmer in good early-season form

A PUPIL at Llantwit Major Comprehensive, Balazs Vincze, recently competed in the Swim Wales national swim meeting.

This event was part of the British Gas GB versus Germany swim programme in the Swansea national pool, and Balazs finished an impressive third in 200m butterfly, third in 100m butterfly, and second in the 50m butterfly.

Balazs is hoping for similar success in the up-and-coming WASA Swim championships in April.

Balazs Vincze.

KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

Kyle's speed is crucial in attack and defence as Kenfig Hill win

Pictures by PETER GILLING

KENFIG Hill Firsts played Nantyfyllon where the game was switched at short notice to Maesteg Park, due to the unsuitable condition of the Blosse Street pitch.

Kenfig came close to scoring from the kick off, but conceded a penalty. The Mules went back on the offensive and hooker Lee Williams crossed the line after a rolling maul from a line-out after five minutes.

Kenfig kept up the pressure, with winger Ian Williams showing up well in several attacks, but during this period the Nanty defence showed resolution in keeping the visitors at bay, and after a rare visit into the Kenfig half, they gained a penalty which outside-half J Phillip slotted over.

Kenfig Hill winger Kyle Evans almost scored on half-time when he kicked ahead and chased, but the Nanty defender just managed to toe the ball into touch on the line to save a try.

The half-time score was **Kenfig Hill 5 Nantyfyllon 3.**

Nanty started the second half on the attack and picked up a sloppy pass by Kenfig Hill and sped for the line, but Kyle Evans chased and tackled close to the line to save a certain try by the home club.

After this, Kenfig put their game together and a superb passing move saw centre Nicky Morgan cross for a try, converted by outside-half Nicky Giles, who then followed up with an accurate penalty.

Nanty took advantage of a poor clearance kick by the visitors to force their way over for a try by centre Darren Griffiths.

Kenfig finished off the game when the speed of Kyle Evans flummoxed the Nanty defender as he went to clear, and Kyle took the ball and scored, Giles converting.

This gave a final score of **Kenfig Hill 22 Nantyfyllon 8.**

For Kenfig Hill, the referee named No 8 Steve Gillard as man-of-the-match, with centre Nicky Morgan a close second. Kyle Evans was the pick of the backs, showing up well in defence and attack, and the front row of Gavin Reffell, Lee Williams and Gavin Jenkins played well as a unit.

KENFIG HILL /CORNELLY YOUTH 18 GORSEINON 31

KENFIG took on a powerful Gorseinon team and went 21-0 down, but they did not let their heads drop and fought back to score 18 unanswered points.

Gorseinon then got back into the game and eventually ended up winners 31-18.

For Kenfig Hill, captain Shaun Burnell scored a try, conversion and two penalties. Second row Lewis Morgan scored a superb individual try. Owen Davies had another good game for Kenfig Hill.

KENFIG HILL (under-7s) v BRITON FERRY

HAVING played 22 matches so far this season, the mini-Mules are into the home straight, with only eight matches remaining until the eagerly anticipated end-of-season competitions.

The youngsters are working steadfastly on their sporting, team-building and personal development, as beautifully displayed during formidable yet gracious wins over affable hosts Briton Ferry.

The pitch condition may well have discouraged many of the normally mud-loving mini-Mules supporters from venturing too far from the pitch-side car park, but neither hosts nor visitors were prevented from producing two excellent games of flowing rugby.

The under-7s faced Briton Ferry first. An evenly-balanced opening five minutes, with four scores equally shared, gave the impression of a titanic battle to follow.

However, Kenfig Hill soon imposed their game and secured an eight two win.

Skipper Mark Underhill exhibited his trademark side-steps and deceptive pace for two tries during an excellent all-round display. Alex Underhill matched the two-score feat of his twin brother.

George Buckley continued his habit of impressive solo tries with more elusive running to notch up his 14th of the season.

What more can we say about the try-scoring instincts of Jack Davies? This week it was three tries from close-quarter support after impressive breaks by team mates.

Head coach Matthew Bater and his coaching underlings are instilling in their teams that tries are important, but that team effort is critical in the most impressive victories.

Conor Jenkins's assault on the defensive line, a knee-jerking side step straight from the last training session and lovely offload, led to one length-of-the-field try.

Ewan Orchard's aggressive defensive display prevented Ferry from gaining any forward momentum.

Ewan Davis expertly maintained a pitch-wide defensive line that eventually took the steam out of the hosts' game, enabling the scores that followed.

Man-of-the-match Steve Gillard on the attack.

KENFIG HILL (under-8s) v BRITON FERRY

LAST October's home fixture against Briton Ferry saw Kenfig Hill's under-8s record their highest single-game score, only to concede equally in a thrilling eight-all draw.

The anticipation of another classic was tangible; suffice to say that no-one was let down after an epic battle!

Liam Evans captained the under-8s for the first time, his lightning straight line speed leading by example. The powerful running of Jack Rundle, a Shane Williams-style long pass from Harry Cooper and a Leigh Halfpenny turn of speed from Ben Evans, saw the mini-Mules constantly worry their opponents.

Luke Tozer played his best game of the season, troubling the defence every time he had the ball in hand. Combined with an outstanding thirst for work in all aspects of play from Tom Watkins, Dylan Pearson and Rhys Perry, the under-8s were impressive throughout.

Connor John was a real nuisance whenever Briton Ferry tried to move forward, organising the defensive line with great effectiveness.

End-to-end play from both sides, with the result in question almost until the final whistle, saw Kenfig Hill outscore Briton Ferry by two scores. An enthralling match ended with an 8-6 win for the mini-Mules.

Try scorers were: Liam Evans (two), Connor John (two), Jack Rundle, Tom Watkins, Ben Evans and Rhys Perry.

KENFIG HILL (under-12s) v ST PETER'S

KENFIG Hill under-12s travelled to the capital city to play a strong St Peter's side.

The game started with both teams playing a hard defensive game in the breakdown area. There was no score for the first 20 minutes, with both teams tackling hard, but the breakthrough came for the Mules when Ross Hooper scored a well-worked try.

This was quickly followed by a try from Sam Young, brushing off several tacklers to score out wide. The Mules were 10-0 up at half-time.

The second half saw the St Peter side working hard in the tight area, asking many questions of the young Mulers, who responded well with a long-range individual try from Liam Evans, scoring under the post with Connor Tantum converting.

At this point, St Peter's increased the pressure again with their forwards driving hard to score close to the post.

The Mules had to make changes due to injuries, but the new players fitted in well. The last five minutes saw the game evenly-matched, with the Mules working to the final whistle.

Ollie Knapp and Ethan Jenkins worked extremely hard in the forwards, and Ellis Sims in the backs put in some cracking tackles. Final score 17-5 to the young Mules.

EMYR OWEN MEMORIAL MATCH

THE annual Emyr Owen Memorial Match will take place this Friday evening (March 5) at 7pm when Kenfig Hill under-11s will play Maesteg Welsh under-11s.

Ryan Jones and Jon Humphreys will be attending. All proceeds are in aid of the LATCH Charity.

G O'S

Kyle Evans grounds the ball for his try.

A real nail-biting under-12 derby between Pencoed and Nantyffyllon!

PENCOED under-12s welcomed local rivals Nantyffyllon to the Verlands for a much-anticipated encounter.

Nanty just edged out Pencoed 12-7 on their patch earlier in the season, and Pencoed were expecting another tough day at the office against a powerful pack of forwards.

The visitors didn't disappoint and started the stronger, keeping Pencoed on the back foot for the first 15 minutes or so, but the home team's defence held out and slowly began to gain some control.

They were made to work but eventually fought their way out of their own half.

A scrum to Pencoed 15 metres out gave them an ideal platform to get their backs into the game, and a neatly-executed miss-pass from Luke Bevan gave Lewis Butler the space to carve through the midfield to score under the posts. Luke Bevan converted to give Pencoed a 7-0 lead minutes before the half-time whistle.

A Pencoed error from the restart gave Nanty possession and good field position, and they responded with typical forward drives which the home team struggled to contain. They eventually crashed over for the try, which went unconverted to bring the score to 7-5.

Pencoed soon extended their lead as a result of a quickly-taken tap penalty from scrum-half Connor Goldsworthy. He beat numerous defenders before offloading to the supporting Chris Carr, who still had some ground to cover before crossing for a well-taken unconverted try.

Again, Nanty responded within minutes of the restart after a mismatch between the smallest player on the pitch in Pencoed's Dylan Barrett and Nanty's bulldozing No 8.

There was only ever going to be one winner here with Nanty winning the contact and running in to bring the scores level at 12-12 with a converted try.

The remainder of the game wasn't for the fainthearted, with both sets of supporters witnessing end-to-end rugby from two determined teams. Pencoed eventually broke the deadlock through Lewis Butler, who outpaced the Nanty defence from half-way to cross for the winning try.

Both teams can be applauded for a thrilling battle which could have gone either way right up to the final whistle.

Final score: Pencoed 17, Nantyffyllon 12.

Man-o- th- match was a close run affair, with Joe Daniel just pipping Morgan Burgess on the day, both players putting their bodies on the line in defence!

SB

FAVOURITES CLINCH THE LEAGUE TITLE IN FINE STYLE

CONGRATULATIONS to B Attack who claimed the Bridgend six-a-side league title they have long-promised, as Chris Abbott helped them destroy Racing Inter 6-0.

Croissants maintained their tasty form, but will have to settle for second spot despite a fine late run. This week it was a case of "its up to you Dan York, Dan York" as the aforementioned star man led them to a 5-2 victory over Hangover Heroes.

Elsewhere Dan Ficko cleaned up for Persil Boys against Team Xtreme in a 7-4 victory, while Dunraven weren't quite done scoring, and Sam Scanlan made sure they eased out AFC Just One More Pie 4-1.

Finally, the pick of the games in division one saw Young Exiles bear the brunt of Athletico Brackla – or more precisely Ian Brunt – who was at his best in a 3-1 victory.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

PREMIER DIVISION

Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
B Attack	17	51	30
Croissants	17	38	26
Dunraven	17	10	23
Racing Inter	17	12	19
Hangover Heroes	17	-1	17
Day Sleepers	17	21	16
AFC Just One More Pie, I Swear..	17	-35	7
Persil Boys FC	17	-41	7
TEAM XTREME	17	-58	6

Pencoed under-9s are just too strong for valiant Nantyffyllon

PENCOED under-9s travelled to take on Nantyffyllon at Caerau Park.

Although the conditions were fine, the weather had taken its toll on the pitch and under foot irt was heavy. This did not stop the visitors trying to play their passing game, with Jonathon Carr and Sam Costelow passing wide to flyer Tyron Harding and Tom and Rhys Bending, who attached the flanks at every opportunity.

Nanty were valiant in defence but the forward commitment of Mikey Bosley, Owain Johns and Cael Chamberlain dominated the breakdown.

Owain John opened the scoring as he broke a tackle and went over in the corner. Thomas Bending was given half a yard soon after and exploited missed tackles to run half the length of the field for Pencoed's second.

Nanty tried to keep the ball in the forwards, and broke off one maul to run in a try at the corner flag.

From the restart, Sam Costelow made one of his jinking runs for Pencoed's third. Not to be outdone, an equally darting attack by Jonathon Carr gave Pencoed their fourth try just before half-time.

The second half continued with Dewi Ward driving down the centre. After one breakdown, the ball was laid back and Mikey Bosley made a quick pick-and-go, ran around the defence, and side-stepped between two defensive players for the visitors' fifth.

Nanty were throwing everything into tackling but it was only a matter of time before the sixth was scored by Thomas Bending, whose second try was again the product of excellent handling.

The coaches were thrilled by this great team performance, especially as a few key players were unavailable.

Notable performances came from Rhys Spurgeon and Cael Chamberlain, but man-of-the-match went to Dewi Ward for his outstanding support play.

MB

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

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Official fuel consumption figures mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km): Lowest: Savvy Style MT: urban 36.7 (7.7), extra urban 61.4 (4.6), combined 49.6 (5.7), CO2: 134; Highest: Savvy Style AMT: urban 36.7 (7.7), extra urban 62.8 (4.5), combined 49.6 (5.7) CO2: 134

*Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT, manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic which is an option at £526. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ^Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules. Terms and conditions apply. ^^Free servicing offer available at participating dealers only on Savvy 1.2 Style MT on 2007 and 2008 February 2010. Terms and conditions apply. +£2,000 discount only available to customers who qualify for the government scrappage incentive scheme. Terms and conditions apply.

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02 52 BMW 325ci Sport Auto Coupe, blue leather, alloys a/c

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06 06 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban 3-dr, 22k, £35 road tax

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04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi 1.8 39k, leather

£5,775
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus, grey met, 39k miles

£15,975
00 W PORSCHE Carrera 4 Coupe Auto, 75k miles

£8,975
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 v6, grey met, 21k miles

Finance example

Amount of credit: £4975.00
35 Monthly payments of £163.06
Final payment of £462.06
Total charge for credit £1194.16
Total amount payable £6169.16
Weekly equivalent £39.55

APR 14.82%
*Photos are indicative only

Small Cars

03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd **£2,975**
02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys **£3,475**
05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£3,965**
03 53 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 5-dr. Grey met, 52k, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas **£3,975**
03 03 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDi Turbo Diesel 5dr. Green met, 61k miles, rcl, cd, alloys **£4,475**
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
05 54 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas. ew, cd **£5,775**
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd **£5,975**
07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd **£6,475**
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**
09 09 CITROEN 1.0 VTR 3-dr. Met black, 8k miles, rcl, pas, cw, cd **£7,475**

Family Cars

02 02 NISSAN Almera Twister 1.5 5-dr. Mint green met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£3,475**
04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSI SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl,cd,ew, alloys **£3,975**
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles **£6,975**
07 07 FORD Mondeo TURBO DIESEL 2.0 TDCi 1x 5-dr. Black met, 34k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£7,475**
05 05 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi TURBO DIESEL Titanium 155. Black met, 45k miles, rcl, alloys, e/w, cd, a/c **£7,975**
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdl 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**

Sports & Executives

04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas **£4,975**
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w **£5,475**
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather **£5,975**
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd **£7,975**
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 V6 Coupe. Grey met, 21k miles, leather, NAV, cruise, heated seats **£8,975**
00 W PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4 Coupe AUTO. 75k miles, fsh, met purple, many extras inc 2 tone exhaust **£15,975**

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

01 51 SUZUKI Jimny 1.3 JLX 4x4. Black met, 66k miles, alloys, cd, cl, e/w **£3,475**
04 04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra MPV. Silver met, 22k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails **£3,475**
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.4 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90l miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
04 54 BMW X5 3.0D AUTO Sport. Silver met, 104k, fsh, alloys, sat nav, cd, climate, full leather **£12,975**

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07 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life MPV Only 4,900 miles

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06 56 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Design 5dr. Silver met, **only 1,900 miles!** New £8,975 **Ours £5,975** **Saving £3,000**
06 56 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5dr. Met gold, **only 3200 miles!** New £14,336 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £7,861**
06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr AUTO. Met blue, **only 5200 miles!** New £12,182 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £5,707**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate AUTO. **Only 2,300 miles!** New £11,275 **Ours £6,775** **Saving £4,500**
56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 4,900 miles!** New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles** New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles** New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!** New £17,172 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £10,197**
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles** New £11,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,500**
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr. Met blue, **only 1760 miles!** New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, **only 2500 miles!** New £10,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 1,500 miles** New £14,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £7,500**
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, **only 4,500 miles!** New £16,795 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,000**
58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!** New £11,275 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £3,500**
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, **only 2,700 miles** New £16,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,500**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, **only 3,700 miles** New £11,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, **only 4,500 miles** New £17,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £10,000**
06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, **only 5,600 miles** New £13,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £6,500**
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!** New £10,175 **Ours £7,975** **Saving £2,200**
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, **only 741 miles** New £12,975 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £4,500**
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, **only 2,600 miles** New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!** New £11,475 **Ours £8,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, **only 1,700 miles!** New £14,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £5,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!** New £11,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, **only 2,200 miles!** New £12,475 **Ours £9,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style+ 5dr. Black met, **only 650 miles** New £12,97 **Ours £10,475** **Saving £2,500**

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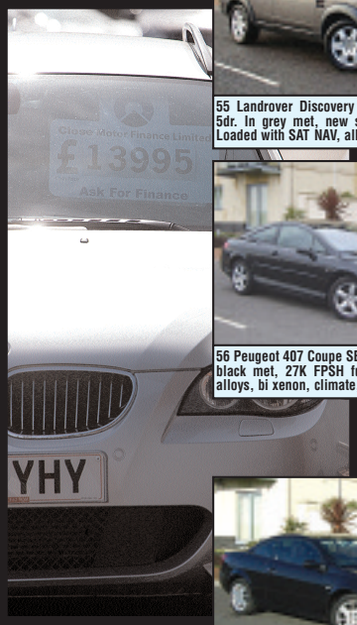

55 Landrover Discovery 3 2.7 TDV6 Auto 5dr. In grey met, new shape, ONLY 60k. Loaded with SAT NAV, alloys £20,995

57 Volkswagen Golf 3.2 5dr R32. In black pearl, ONLY 24k, FVWSH. Loaded, Vienna lthr Recaros, 18" alloys £17,995

05 BMW X3 2.0d M Sport 5dr (lthr). In silver met, ONLY 51k, FSH. DIESEL Sport with leather, climate a/c £13,995

07 Honda Civic 1.8 VTEC-I ACS Type-S GT. In black, rare GT model, 47k, FHSH. Loaded, 18" alloys, climate £11,995

56 Peugeot 407 Coupe SE+ Executive 2.2 in black met, 27K FPSH full nappa leather, alloys, bi xenon, climate, h/seats .£8,995

03 Audi TT 1.8 2dr 180PS (heated/lthr). In silver met, red leather, low mileage, 57k, FSH, H/seats, 18" factory £8,995

08 Toyota Yaris 1.0 TR 5dr in red met, ONLY 12k, NEW SHAPE. FTSH. In new cond, a/c, alloys £7,995

02 Mini Cooper S 1.6 Supercharged 3dr. In grey met, full leather, ONLY 28k miles, FSH, A/C Supercharged £7,495

05 Renault Megane CC Cabriolet 1.9 DCI Dynamique. In black, DIESEL, ONLY 45k miles. Loaded, a/c, alloys £7,495

07 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 VTX HDI 5dr. In grey met, ONLY 47k, DIESEL, FSH. Electric windows, mirrors, air £6,995

07 Peugeot 207 1.4 Sport 5dr (a/c) in black met, NEW SHAPE, only 38k. FSH. Low insurance, alloys, a/c £6,995

05 Mercedes Benz A150 Classic SE 1.5 5dr NEW SHAPE in green met. Low ins and tax. Air con, e/w, pas, ASR £6,995

07 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3dr. In silver met, NEW SHAPE, ONLY 13k, pas CD player, air con, electric windows £6,495

56 Peugeot 207 S 1.4 3dr (a/c) in lapis blue. Very low mileage. 19k, FSH, CD, a/c, e/w, PAS, Low insurance £5,995

54 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 S SDI 5dr (A/C) Diesel. Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088 . . . . . £5,995

55 Renault Scenic 1.4 16v Dynamique 5dr. In silver met. NEW SHAPE MPV. ONLY 33,000 FRSH. A/C, pas £5,495

05 Citroen Xsara Picasso Desire 2 1.6 5dr (a/c) in silver met, f/lift ONLY 38K FSH. Excellent cond, a/c, pas, e/w £4,995

05 Fiat Panda Eleganza 1.2 5dr. In blue met, NEW SHAPE, electric windows, remote locking, alloys, ONLY 19k .£4,995

04 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 Twist 3dr (a/c) in grey met, ONLY 53k FULL VW SERVICE HISTORY. Alloys, a/c, e/w £4,495

54 Ford Focus 1.8 Edge 3dr (a/c) Ltd Edition in imola blue met, ONLY 40k with FSH, alloys, a/c, e/w £4,495

04 Ford KA 1.3 3dr in ice green met, 2004 model, ONLY 65,000 miles. PAS . .£2,995

S Mazda MX-5 1.6 Convertible 2dr. In blue met, late shape, FSH, chrome roof bars, pas £2,995

52 Ford Ka 1.3 Luxury 3dr in black met, ONLY 61,000 miles in excellent cond. Full black leather, a/c £2,995

51 Renault Clio 1.2 8v Authentique 3dr in yellow met, ONLY 64,000 miles. Service history. 3dr, PAS, low ins £2,795

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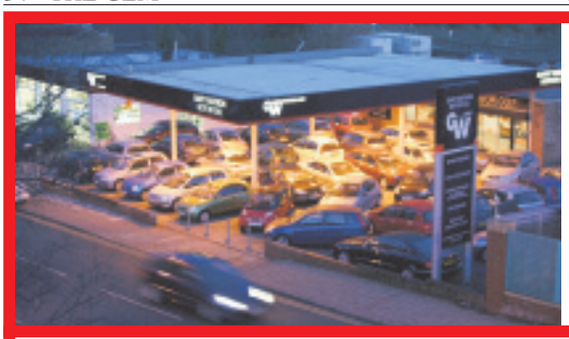

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04 MERCEDES SL55 AMG. In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, etc **£32,995**

02 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 5-dr In met red with charcoal leather trim, low mileage local example at **£3,995**

54 CHRYSLER Voyager 2.5CRD SE in silver, 45.000 miles, diesel, 7-seater **£6,995**

06 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection in April green, 23,000 miles with decals . . . . . **REDUCED BY £800 TO £3,995**

04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra. In met red, 78,000 miles, with CD, alloys etc **£2,795**

SPORT, PRESTIGE & 4X4

04	**MERCEDES SL55 AMG.** In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, command Bose etc.	**£32,995**
57	**BMW 320 Diesel M Sport Auto** In black with cream leather, 30,000 miles, 1 lady owner	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
56	**BMW 335 Diesel SE Coupe Automatic.** In dolphin grey with black leather, 26,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
05	**MERCEDES CLK 220 CDi.** In silver with grey leather trim, 60,000 miles, usual refinements	**£14,695**
53	**JAGUAR XJ8 3.6 Automatic.** In silver with cream leather trim, 53,000 miles, luxury motoring at	**£11,995**
02	**MERCEDES S320 CDi Auto.** In light met blue with grey leather trim, 71,000 miles. Luxury diesel saloon at	**£10,995**
06	**MINI 1.6 Convertible.** In black, 35,000 miles, fun for the summer at	**£9,995**
03	**AUDI TT 180.** In met blue with black leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£8,995**
06	**MINI Cooper.** In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli pack and climate	**REDUCED BY £800 TO £8,495**
54	**CHRYSLER Voyager 2.5CRD SE.** In silver, 45.000 miles, diesel, 7-seater	**£6,995**
05	**NISSAN Terrano II 2.7 TDi.** In gold over silver, 78,000 miles, diesel 7-seater 4x4	**£6,995**
V	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In silver, full leather trim, 62,000 miles, stylish convertible at	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995**
05	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC.** In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible at	**£6,995**
02	**JAGUAR S Type 2.5 SE Auto.** Silver with black leather, low mileage, local car	**£5,995**
52	**PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE.** In silver with black leather trim, 57,000 miles, 4-seater convertible	**£4,995**
02	**TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-dr.** In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH	**£4,295**
52	**BMW 320 Diesel SE.** In steel blue with sat-nav, sports seats, high mileage hence	**£3,995**
02	**LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 5-Dr.** In met red with charcoal leather trim, low mileage, local example at	**£3,995**
Y	**PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.** In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**
02	**MG ZT 2.5.** In silver with sports interior, looks and drives superb at	**£3,795**
Y	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible.** In red, 91,000 miles, 4 seat convertible at	**£3,295**

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06	**CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SXi.** In turquoise met, 58,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh, diesel, 7 seater	**£7,995**
55	**HONDA Civic 1.6 Executive 5-dr.** In forest pearl silver with black leather trim, 35,000 miles, fsh	**£7,495**
56	**FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr.** In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at	**£6,995**
07	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic.** Met blue, 23,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
07	**RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc	**£6,495**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr.** In red, 32,000 miles with alloys, a/c, keyless go, etc	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	**£6,495**
56	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi 3-dr (new shape).** In black, 51,000 miles, stylish coupe at	**£6,495**
57	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr.** In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £5,995**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 VVTi GLX 5-dr.** In silver, 31,000 miles with keyless go, alloys, etc	**£5,995**
55	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE.** In met grey, 51,000 miles, comfortable stylish diesel at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**
55	**VW Golf 1.4 FSi 5-dr.** In electric blue, superb looking car, 18" alloys, low insurance	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Automatic 5-dr.** Met jade, half leather trim, low mileage	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.** 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	**£4,695**
53	**Renault Clio 2.0 Sport 172.** In met black, high specification sports hatch	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03	**VAUXHALL Zafira 2.0 DTi Comfort. I**n silver, 73,000 miles, 7-seat diesel at	**£4,495**
04	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Desire.** In silver, 61,000 miles with a/c, c/d etc	**£4,295**
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 3-dr.** In silver, 44,000 miles with alloys, cd, etc	**£4,295**
53	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr.** In silver, 49,000 miles, with a/c	**£4,295**
04	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-dr.** In black, 49,000 miles, family hatch	**£3,995**
06	**FORD Ka 1.3 Collection.** In April green, 23,000 miles with decals	**REDUCED BY £800 TO £3,995**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**
02	**VW Polo 1.4TDi SE 5-Dr.** In met blue, low mileage diesel at	**£3,995**
04	**PEUGEOT 307 1.4 5-dr.** In met grey with cd, e/w, c/l, alloys, privacy glass	**£3,795**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd, under 40,000 miles, low ins & road tax	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr.** In met grey, low mileage local example at	**£3,495**
51	**SMART City Passion Soft touch.** In red and silver, 33,000 miles with full glass roof	**£3,295**
02	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX 5-Dr Automatic.** In champagne met, 53,000 miles	**£2,995**
04	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra.** In met red, 78,000 miles, with cd, alloys etc.	**£2,795**
52	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 SX.** In met red, 66,000 miles, with cd, air con etc.	**£2,495**

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FordNew Ka Studio
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£6,895.00
24 Monthly Payments	£128.15
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£5,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£476.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£6,718.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,876.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1000 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Fiesta Zetec
1.25 16v Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price**	£10,395.00
24 Monthly Payments	£216.21
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£9,745.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£699.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,454.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,550 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordFocus Zetec
1.6 16v Petrol (100PS) Euro Stage IV

On The Road Price**	£12,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£250.81
Deposit Allowance***	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,795.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£804.44
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£11,599.44
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,580.00
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On The Road Price**	£8,695.00
24 Monthly Payments	£161.22
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£8,245.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£661.28
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,356.28
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,027.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordNew Ka Style +
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£7,895.00
24 Monthly Payments	£156.41
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£7,445.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£584.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£8,479.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4,266.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1.200.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
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FordMondeo Zetec 5 door
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Deposit Allowance***	£1,000.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,000.00
Amount of Credit	£14,995.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£1,089.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£16,094.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£7,175.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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GEM sport

Wales need to learn that two swift halves are better than one

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

IT wasn't that many moons ago when Wales had an unwelcome international reputation as '*the 40-minute team*', capable of a spirited, even brilliant first half display, but unable to maintain it for the full 80 minutes and guaranteed to fade long before the final whistle, as pressure and fitness issues told in the heat of battle.

With this current Welsh team, physical conditioning is no longer a problem, so it is ironic that the match trend now seems to be reversed – with a sluggish, lack-lustre first 40 minutes being followed by an all-action, edge-of-the-seat, second half fight-back that all too often comes far too late to win the day.

If only the old first half and the new second half could be fused into a complete 80-minute whole, what a joy that would be for the nail-bitten fans (as well as the equally frustrated Wales coaches!)

In the Six Nations opener, a belated burst of Welsh energy was not enough against a mediocre English side, that went on to only narrowly overcome world rugby minnows Italy.

Against the battling Scots, the habitual Welsh second half revival won the day by the skin of their teeth (an exhilarating win put into sober focus by Scotland's demise in Rome at the weekend).

Against Grand Slam-hunting France at the Millennium Stadium on Friday evening, harsh reality again hit home in a 20-26 defeat that left Wales' remaining championship hopes in tatters.

In each case, Wales has generously allowed the opposition to take a substantial early lead, and then been forced into risk-taking, catch-up rugby, which though at times heroic and certainly entertaining, has had nerves a'jangling!

Whereas England had somehow held out, and Scotland had imploded within seconds of victory, there was never any real danger of a belated Welsh comeback fazing the impressively-focused title-favourites, once the latter had a 20-point first half cushion, courtesy of two gratefully-taken interception tries.

The lesson, it seems, had still not been learnt; though in truth, that was not the whole story, for the root cause of Wales' current lack of success is glaringly obvious.

As head coach Warren Gatland himself put it on Saturday evening : "We are the architects of our own misfortune".

He was referring, of course, to his team's self-destructive tendency to scatter basic errors like confetti, aborting promising moves at the critical juncture, and gifting a clutch of soft points to opposing teams – who are then made to look far better than they really are.

Dropped passes, give-away interceptions and surprising defensive lapses (given the squad's strength in that department just a year ago), are some of the burning issues now being urgently addressed.

The real pity is that this is a genuinely-talented Welsh team clearly simmering with potential, and flashes of brilliance give tantalising glimpses of great things to come...

...If only they can sort out the errors in execution and put two equal halves together, rather than persistently giving opponents a 20-point headstart and attempting to overhaul them as the clock winds down!

Even so, the time surely cannot be too far distant when this still-developing young squad finally gels, and all the parts come together in a smoothly composite whole.

Maybe that could even happen before the end of this year's Six Nations – and with Italy and Ireland to come, who knows?

What a morale booster that would be to the Welsh squad's preparations for the Rugby World Cup.

ANOTHER WIN SENDS ATHLETIC STRIDING UP LEAGUE TABLE

BONYMAEN RFC	**14**
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC	**19**

HAVING been a visitor to Parc Mawr on many occasions, it was surprising to find that the weather was warm and sunny, with no rain in the air and only a light breeze to disturb things: conditions were perfect.

The home team had only been narrowly beaten by league leaders Tonmawr on their own turf this season, so the visit of Bridgend Athletic (lying sixth) held no fears for them.

Both teams have placed their faith in youth development in recent seasons and many of the players had locked horns previously as juniors. Bonymaen pride themselves on playing an open game with superior fitness allowing them to overwhelm opponents in the final quarter.

On this occasion, they found a side that was able to match them in both departments and it was the Athletic who scored first to set up a very creditable win.

The visitors started well as they played down the slight slope. Fly-half Steve Lewis's kick off was caught and driven forward by Bonymaen, only for the pack to be judged off-side when scrum-half Cuniffe launched a high kick. Stuart Morris comfortably slotted his early opportunity.

The full-back had another opportunity almost immediately as the Bonymaen wing Hoppe fumbled under pressure and supporting back-row Bija came in at the side. Morris again made no mistake as he sent his kick sailing between the posts.

Back came Bonymaen and they were awarded a penalty for a high tackle that outside-half Brooks converted for three points. From the restart, it was the visitors' turn to move the ball and they attacked their opponents from both lineout and scrum, forcing an off-side call which Morris capitalised on for three more points to the Ath.

The Athletic tight five of Jones, Mustoe, Norman, Williams and Penry-Ellis were working hard to maintain the pressure on their opponents, allowing the back-row of Apsee, Hillman and Morgan to hunt down the loose ball and set their backs in motion whenever possible.

In the latter stages of the half, Bonymaen had a sustained period of pressure but were constantly repelled. Eventually, the pressure told when the Athletic backs were caught off-side in mid-field, only for Brooks to pull a fairly easy penalty kick wide. This meant that the Athletic closed the half as leaders by 9-3.

With the benefit of the slope, Bonymaen stormed into the attack. A good kick turned the defence and Morris was caught in possession close to his line. As the ball was fed back, an Athletic player was seen to obstruct the run of his opponent and this time Brooks took full advantage to pull Bonymaen back to within three.

Bonymaen continued to press and the Athletic had to work extremely hard to try to weather the storm. They were helped by good kicking out of defence by half-backs Thomas and Lewis.

The home pack was able to exert a bit more dominance and muscled a maul forward for 20 metres, causing the Athletic to collapse and give away a penalty. Bonymaen opted to kick to touch for a line-out five metres out.

This was stolen by the Athletic, allowing Davies to make a strong run out of defence, which was followed up by astute driving work to avert the danger.

Unfortunately for the visitors, a couple of mistakes allowed Bonymaen back into their 22 and when a scrum was disrupted, Apsee was caught in possession, allowing Brooks to level.

Just after the restart a loose kick by Bonymaen out of defence was caught by Rob Coles who slipped a pass to fellow centre Hywel Davies, who made good ground on the left before sliding a kick between the tramlines into the home 22. The relieving kick failed to find touch and Steve Lewis went on a mazy run before passing to his half-back partner Aled Thomas who, despite stumbling, stepped inside the cover and dashed over. Morris converted.

There was still plenty of time and Bonymaen were not about to capitulate. They carried the game into the Bridgend half with determination and skill.

Mis-communication by the Athletic defence saw full-back Williams breach the line and the Athletic resorted to an early tackle to halt his progress.

Bonymaen chose a scrum and made two good surges at the Athletic line before loose-head prop Murphy dived over 15 metres from the posts. Surprisingly, Brooks was unable to level the scores.

As the game entered its last few minutes, the Athletic forced their way into the Bonymaen half and Lewis had an opportunity with a long range penalty, but was unable to make it count.

As Bonymaen tried to break out of defence, Rod Davies intercepted and drove forward.

Tom Morgan carried the ball quickly at the heart of the defence and quick ball was served up from the resulting ruck. Lewis steadied himself and sent a majestic drop goal curving through the posts to seal a fine victory for the Bridgend Athletic team.

This victory was the Athletic's fourth in succession and they have risen to fifth place in Division One West as a result.

The coaching team are delighted with the new found confidence in the side and John Apsee feels that the club can use this as a springboard to strengthen its position both on and off the pitch.

Coach, Paul Yardley, said: "At the moment our 'A game' gives us the confidence to play against anyone in the leauge and expect something out of it.

"Defence and fitness is the best I've seen for a long time with some great individual performances.

"It's a great training and playing environment to be involved with."

Next week, the Athletic travel to Narberth, who are just below them in the league despite having beaten the Athletic twice this season, in the league and in the SWALEC Cup, albeit narrowly.

MARK DAVIES

Aled Thomas outpaces the defence to score.

Stuart Morris releases Rod Davies to attack out wide.

Photographs by KERRY FOTHERGILL

Argentines do more than just scrummage against Ath Youth

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH	**15**
REGATAS YOUTH (ARGENTINA)	**0**

BRIDGEND Athletic Youth took on an Argentine touring side with a mixture of their A and B squads, and soon realised that they were in for a tough game.

Regatas made it hard for the Athletic to get any fluency, with a massive effort at the breakdown preventing quick ball. The visitors were also willing to spread the ball at every opportunity, even from their own line.

The first half finished scoreless, with the Athletic having the territorial advantage but failing to penetrate the tough Regatas defence. A problem for the Athletic was the constant stream of penalties against them, which frustrated and mystified this bunch of players, who are normally so disciplined.

In the second half, the Athletic gradually turned the screw and took the lead with a penalty by Tom Davies for offside. Several opportunities were missed with some sloppy passing, but eventually powerful right winger Lewis Harrhy crossed over wide out to break the stalemate. Davies converted with a great kick.

From the kick-off, hooker Aaron Shakeshaft caught the ball and surged forward with great pace, taking the ball to the visitors' 10-yard line before finding flanker Lloyd Evans on the inside, who covered the remaining ground for a great try, converted by Davies.

The Athletic were now well in command and pressed for more, but Regatas were a fit and spirited bunch of players, and with their outstanding scrum-half leading the way, they responded with a late surge to end the game, but could not breach the Athletic defence.

Squad members Tom Habberfield and Matthew Morgan played for the Welsh under-18s against the Leicester Academy on the following day and acquitted themselves well.

The club would like to congratulate them on their achievements and hope that they are selected for the squad to feature in the home championship games.

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